

T H E
1742

SCOTS ROGUE. OR, THE LIFE AND ACTIONS OF DONALD MACDONALD, A HIGHLAND SCOT:

Relating his being found in the High-way, and carried home by *Gurtogh Macdonald* to his wife; and how he was brought up by them: his early Waggeries and Villanies when he came to riper Years. His Love Intrigues, and how many various Fortunes he went through, and the Miseries that he endured: his extraordinary Wit and Courage, and how he extricated himself out of divers Difficulties, into which his Rogueries had brought him.

The whole being very pleasant and diverting.

When men do from the paths of virtue run,
They take the readiest course to be undone;
For be they ne'er so valiant and so stout,
The hand of justice always finds them out:
For although justice may be painted blind,
The hard'ned sinner it will be sure to find.

P A I S L E Y:

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For G E O R G E C A L D W E L L, Bookseller, near
the Cros. M D C C . L X X X I V .

TO THE
R E A D E R.

AND why a Scots rogue? Some will be ready to say; but I say why not-a Scots rogue, as well as an English rogue, a Spanish rogue, or an Irish rogue? As barren as the soil of that country is in other respects, it is fruitful enough in this commodity. And seeing there are rogues in all other countries, it would be a blemish to Scotland to find none there: and if a rogue be one that lives by his wits, and if put to his shifts, I believe Scotland may as well put in for her share of them, as any other country; for there are many there that have little else to live by; and though perhaps an Englishman may have more shifts, a Scotsman has as many shifts as the; and makes as much use of them too, as Donald Macdonald (our Scots Rogue) will inform you in the following history of his life and fortunes. Nor is this written to affront that ancient kingdom of Scotland (which every man that will speak truth, must own has produced as many worthy and eminent persons, learned in all faculties, as most nations in the world) any more than the English Rogue, or Life of Meritoen Latroon, was written to affront the kingdom of England; but rather to shew that ill men in all nations will act like themselves; that is, will do wickedly, and commit those crimes that one time or other will bring them to condign punishment: and yet neither the dangers to which they are so generally exposed, is able to deter them from their wicked ways, nor the profit and advantage of honest courses allure them to the ways of virtue.

But as it is scarce to be imagined, that in a battle not one should escape, so it would be very hard to think that not one rogue should be reclaimed by seeing the ill fate of others, and brought to see the real difference between vice and virtue; and so avoiding the former, become a sincere votary to the latter. At least, such examples may deter these that were just going to plunge themselves into the mire, and divert them from those ways which would have brought them to inevitable ruin.

This makes me hope, Reader, that thou wilt be kind to our Scots Rogue; for tho' he has been a false loon, yet thou mayest reap some advantage by him; especially considering he is a bluff Highland Rogue, and that with his gang about him, has made a considerable figure in his own country.



MUSEUM

THE
SCOT'S ROGUE:
OR THE
LIFE AND ACTIONS
OF DONALD MACDONALD,
a Highland Robber.

CHAP I.

Giving an account of what he knew of his birth and parentage, and of the early tricks and rogueries he played in his minority. How he was put to school, and how he revenged himself of his master.

I HAVE often thought how like the progress of my life was to the beginning of it; and how just a title I had to thieving, who was forced by my parents to steal into the world, and they forced to steal away from me as soon as I was born, and left me to make the best of my way; so that though I knew I had parents, yet I never knew who they were, nor did they design that any body else should: and as I knew not my parents, so neither can I tell the place of my birth; but as I have since been informed, I was dropped and lost, or rather found, at Ardnaglas, not far from Loch-Allin, in a little obscure village; and there left to the wide world, but had such blankets and caddows in which I was wrapt up, as bespoke my unknown parents to be of no ordinary quality: and the gold that was found along with me (the quantity whereof I could never truly learn) was the cause that prevail'd with my foster-father to give me house room; for he finding of me laid under a bush by the side of

a road, wrapt up in a very rich laced mantle, had the curiosity to see what it was : and seeing the fine lace and silk mantle, with a bundle of clothes lying by me, takes up all, and covering me with his plaid, carries me to his house : but telling his wife he had brought her a child, which she supposing to be one of his bastards, takes up a three legg'd stool, saying, Ye damned lecherous loon, am I not enough for you to lig by but you mun bring your bastards home to kill me ? upon which the old man was forc'd to step aside to avoid the blow, or else there had been an end of me at once ; and then crying out, what devil gars the woman—and shewing her withal my fine mantle, she began to be surprised, and enquired further into the matter. And having opened the bundle, and therein found the mooney, I was admitted into the family, and had the name of Donald M'Donald given me (Curtogh M'Donald being the name of my foster father, who was descended from the clan of that name : but of this I knew nothing till the 15th year of my age. and then by chance). I was brought up with great care, because they supposed those that had left me there, would come and look after me, to whom they supposed they were to be accountable for what they found with me ; and upon that score it was that I had more than ordinary respect shewed me by the old man, for his wife never cared for me ; for though the rich things they found with me were carefully laid up, yet I appeared even in my poor garments, as I have since been told, of a quite different air from that of their other children ; so that I was admired by all that saw me ; and they would frequently say, that I differed from all the rest of the children, and was neither like father nor mother : however, it was the gold that they found with me, set them in a much better condition than it found them ; which made them shew the more respect to me ; and as I grew up, I was better clad than the rest, and had more of my supposed father's favour.

But as much as my pretended father loved me, I had a design upon his orchard, which was a very good one, and which he was very chary of, for there was no other orchard but ours nearer than Skyrasslin. My mouth watered at some delicate choice pears, which we used to sell at Skyrasslin market, and sometimes at Rowar, as being very scarce in that

part of the country, and because they yielded a good price, my father had counted every one of them, and if the wind at any time had b'own one off, he immediately mis'd it, and enquired after it. These reasons kept me from taking any of them away, tho' we were permitted oftentimes to play therein. But how to satisfy my longing, I knew not, until one day as I was in the fields, I saw some swine rubbing themselves at the bottom of some oak-trees, and going near to know the reason of it, I perceived the acorns to drop, which they presently devour'd, and then began to rub against the trees again, to shake down more. The subtlety of the swine shew'd me the way how to come at the pears : for when I came home, I left the orchard door open for two or three days together, on purpose that the swine in the adjuining yard might enter ; and at length finding one in the orchard, I climb'd the tree, and gather'd most of the fruit, which I secured in a place I had before prepared for that purpose : and to cover all this the better, I gave the hog so much of the other common fruit in the garden, that whomsoever had seen him, would have gaessed by his tun-belly, that he had been the author of the mischief. When I had thus emptied my pockets and secur'd my cargo, I ran in crying, that the hog by rubbing himself against the best pear tree, had shaken down and devor'd the pears, do what I could to drive him away. This made the old man put forth all his activity, and run faster than ordinary into the garden, where finding the hog under the pear tree, devouring some relics I had left him, he suspected nothing, but drove him away as sorrowfully as he came in angry, threatening as the utmost that he could do, to kill the hog at Christmas.

And now, as an effect of the old man's kindness for me, (and of what he got when he first found me) I was put to a school at Skyrassis, and afterwards designed for the university at Aberdeen : and here I was put to learn the English dialect, for my better accomplishment, and then to learn the Latin tongue : but I was such a votary to play and roguery, that I was but a sorry proficient in learning ; being readier at cat and dog, cappy hole, riding and hurley hacket, playing at kyles and dams, spang bodle, wrestling and football, (and such other sports as we use in our country) than

at my book ; by which I provoked my master to that degree, that my buttocks often felt the weight of his severity, which I so heinously resented, that the desire of revenge would not go out of my mind; and I bent all the wit I was master of, in studying to effect it ; I thought on many things, but they still proved abortive, and one project jostled out another ; some I thought too light, and too easily accomplished ; and others appeared too horrid, and too hazardous and full of danger ; for though my invention was pretty fruitful especially in mischief, (as many of my school-fellows had often found to their cost) yet I confess I was now at a stand : but as the proverb says, *Seldom lies the devil by the dyke side :* that author of all mischief would not let me be long quiet, but brought a lucky thought into my mind, which gave me some rude and undigested ideas of a severe revenge, which time and thought brought to maturity. I had several times took notice that the head-scholar of our school, (a lad of eighteen years of age, whom my master in his absence substituted in his place, and dubbed him a kind of an usher, in which authority he became more imperious than my master himself, and was the greater tyrant of the two ; and against whom I had an equal antipathy) had some more than ordinary familiarity with my mistress, when my master was taking his nipperkin of ale with his pot-companions : (for my master would take off his chopin as well as the best of them). And observing that my mistress being then in her bloom, and in all the sprightliness and gaiety of her youthful blood, and had married the old fomblor my master, for a subsistence more than for love, I concluded there must be something more than ordinary in the obsequiousness of our young amorous usher, and the obliging and complaisant carriage of my mistress ; and therefore I resolved to have a watchful eye upon them, and became such a spy upon their actions, that by their glances, smiles, winks, and other symptoms of love, I could have almost sworn that my master was a mickle mon in the corporation of euckolds : so that I began to plot not only how I might raise, but cure his jealousy.

And not long after, my master being at his old hoot, and so the stage cleare, my mistress had some sudden qualm come upon her, which made her go to bed before her usual time ;

which by the observation I had made, I took to be a plot laid between her and the usher, to gain the more freedom for their uninterrupted mutual enjoyment ; which I being resolved to be further satisfied in, withdrew before she got up to her chamber, and concealed myself in a corner of it, behind the hangings, so that I could not possibly be seen, unless felt for on purpose. And soon after comes up my mistress, who being partly undressed below, got quickly into bed, and was no sooner laid down, but somebody gave a gentle tap at the door, upon which my mistress gets out of her bed, and in her smock admits the amorous usher, embracing him in her naked arms, and almost smothering him with kisses ; which being over, he quickly stript, and got into the bed, she meeting him half way with open arms ; and without any loss of time, pursued their amorous engagement ; which after having renewed two or three times, they both fell asleep, as being satiated for that time with their enjoyments. And now being satisfied in all that I desired, I stept from behind my retiring place, and was making the best of my way out, but perceiving something over a glimmering fire in the chimney, my curiosit y led me to see what it was, and putting my finger into it, I perceived it was a glue pot which a joiner's boy, who had been mending the frame of the looking-glass belonging to the chamber that afternoon, had forgetfully left there ; and finding the glue warm and soft, the de'il put it into my head, to put my finger in the glue, and stroak it over their eyes, which I did so cautiously, and with such a soft and gentle touch, that neither of them perceived it. Then taking the key out of the door, and locking it on the outside, I got down stairs so softly, that I was unperceived by any one. And after I had been below a while, I came into the kitchen, and asking what o'clock it was, was answered it was past ten. Theo said I, Ise e'en gang to bed : and so will I too, replied the wench, when I have laid the key for my master ; for Ise not stay up for him any longer. And so the lass going into her chamber, I went into mine ; but soon returned softly down stairs again, to put my designed revenge in execution, in order to which, I put a frightful vizard on my face, and a cap on my head ; and so shew my master some emblem of his fortune, I got a pair of horns that had been used at

our last breaking up, in a sort of an interlude, upon my head, and covered my own clothes with an old crap-gown of my master's, and having got some of those serpents left, which I had made against the last anniversary of Gowry's conspiracy, with a match ready lighted by me, I went and opened a trap door, in the entry made for the better convenience of putting coals into the cellar. And having thus got all things ready, I waited for his coming with some impatience; and by and by I heard him feeling for the key, which he could not readily find, by which I knew he was pretty far gone in drirk; and having laid myself in the entry in his way; he quickly stumbled and fell over me with his face sowsse upon the ground, and then I immediately fired my serpents, by the light of which, looking up to see at what he had stumbled, he beheld my horrid phiz, and taking me for the devil, cried out with a lamentable voice, "O help! help! help! the deel! the deel! the deel! the loon has me in his grip, the loon has me in his grip;" and making all the haste he could towards the kitchen he fell in at the trap-door down into the cellar, crying out, Ise gone, Ise gone, whilst I followed him to the trap door, crying out, I've got thee; and now thou mun gang with me. Upon his falling into the cellar, he had a cruel squelsh, which made him roar out horribly. Which hideous noise awakened the servants, who quickly came down to see what the matter was; but before they came down, I had made fast the trap-door again, and was got up to my chamber just as the serpent made a bounce; which being but one pair of stairs, and over the entry, I could easily hear what passed. But my business was while they were finding out my master, to disrobe myself and hide all my accoutrements, and when hearing the noise below, I hearkened to what was said and done; the issue of which was, that while my master was crying out sometimes that he was in hell, and at other times that his bones were broken, the servants, directed by the noise he made, came to him into the cellar, and asked him how he came thither, he told them that the devil came to him, and threw him there, and had almost killed him with the fall: Why, said they, did you fall down stairs? No, no, said he, the devil threw me through the trap door; upon which they went up and look-

ed; and found the trap door fast shut, and all things well : but when they had given him a dram of the bottle, and brought him a little better to himself, he told them, that upon his coming in, a horrible monstrous devil, vomiting flames of fire, seized upon him, and threw him with violence down into the cellar, but which way he knew not ; and had certainly carried me with him, said he, to the infernal region, had I not prayed hard, and cried to heaven for mercy.

But perceiving that there was only the servants, and neither my mistress nor the usher, I resolved they should now come in for a snack, and therefore getting up near their apartment with a candle in my hand, I set fire to an old map of the world, that was pasted upon canvas, and hung in the passage, and was just got into my bed again, when they had brought up my master out of the cellar into the kitchen, and the map blazing out extremely, the servants perceiv'd it, and presently cry'd Fire fire, running up stairs to see what it was, and to quench it, which was soon done : but upon that noise, the watchmen knocked at the door, and I came running out of my chamber as affrighted, and the watchmen were presently let in, not so much because the servants thought it was the devil, as because perhaps they thought there might be thieves in the house who might occasion these disorders.

The constable and his watch were no sooner entered, but my master began to assume a little courage : tho' but just before, upon the burning of the map he fell into a grievous agony, crying out, *O the deel, the deel ! see, see, how his eyes glare and burn just like a flaming torch !* But now, seeing the authority of the constable, and the number of the watchmen, the old gentleman supposed they were strong enough to engage Beelzabub himself, should he offer to make any farther disturbance. And therefore having now leisure to think, he began to wonder that he has not seen his wife in all this noise and confusion : and fearing the devil, at his last appearing, when they cry'd out fire, might have carry'd her away, and mistaken her for himself, he fell again into a dreadful agony, lamenting her unhappy fate, as it he'd seen her in the devil's grip : and therefore intreated the commander of the night and his bellmen, to go with him to his wife's apartment, that he might see what was become of her : to this the

constable agreed, and up they go, though my master was fain to be help'd up, he had so bruis'd himself with his fall: but when they came to the chamber-door, and found the key on the out-side, they would have had my master to go in first, but his fear had too great an ascendant over him, and therefore was willing to give them the honour of the first entrance, that, in case of any danger, he might be down stairs first.

By this time the two wearied lovers being newly waked out of their sleep, began to rub their eyes, but could not open them, the glue had joined them so close together; and therefore hearing a great noise in the room, and yet not seeing any thing, imagined it had been thieves that had broken in, and come to kill them; so that they jumpt out of bed in their shifts, and running towards the door, that they might get away, ran against the old gentleman my master, and flung him down, (for he was hardly able to stand before.) and finding the passage stopped there, ran about the room like persons frighted out of their wits; begging they would save their lives, though they took all they had: the old gentleman being got up again, and seeing his wife and his usher run naked about the room, soon perceived what they had been doing; and therefore, unwilling to have her any more exposed, ordered one of the maids to take her in her arms, and carry her to bed and cover her. And she, hearing her husband's voice, was a little better satisfied than when she thought they had been thieves; then told her husband she knew not what they had done to her, nor how this scholar came into her chamber; for though she was well when she went to bed, she was now blind; and therefore believed she was bewitched: the usher, though he could see no more than she, fell down upon his knees, and begged for mercy and forgiveness, promising never to be guilty of the like offence again. My master, to put the better gloss upon the matter, told the constable that he did believe they were all bewitched, for the devil had been very busy that night: and so dismising the watch, and giving them money to drink, desired them to take no notice abroad of what they had seen at his house. The watchmen made fair promises, and told no body but folks wherever they came.

The company being gone, and the doors made fast, and my mistress and the scholar being restored to their sight, by the application of warm milk, which with much washing, rubbing, and pains they had unsealed; my master said but little that night, but ordered the poor usher to his bed, and told him he would examine more into the matter next morning; and then leaving his wife in her own bed, went into another himself, saying he was not fit, after so much fatigue as he had suffered that night, to come into her arms; and indeed any one that had been near enough might have smelt out the matter, for the old gentleman, with his fright and fall together, had hesh—t himself, and was fain to get one of the maids to make him clean.

The next morning, my master, bruised as he was, got up betimes, having dreamed of nothing but horns all night, and going into my mistress's chamber, enquires into the particulars of the last night's work; and tells her that his usher had confessed that he lay with her. She told him if he did, it was unknown to her, and that she knew no more of his being either in the chamber, or the bed, than himself did; and she believed it was all the effect of witchcraft. This being all he could get out of her, he next examines the young gamester, bidding him, as he hoped for pardon, to confess all freely, his wife having told him, that when he came to bed to her, she thought it had been only her husband; and that he being too strong for her, she could not help what he did. The Nysee thinking this to be true, and being vexed his mistress should so expose him, fell upon his knees, and protested his mistress first tempted him to lie with her, telling him her husband was an old fumbling dunder, and could do nothing; and that though this was the first time they were found out, yet he had lain with her before an hundred times.

This declaration, tho' he had promised pardon before, enraged him to that degree, that before he turned him out of doors, he resolved he should have the courtesy of the house: and therefore delivering him to the man and maid to bind him hand and foot, he went up and secured his wife in her chamber, and then so effectually flogged the young lecher, that the being whip'd at the cart's arse was but a flea-biting to it.

And tho' my mistress was not in a capacity to relieve him,

yet his miserable out-cries under his castigation, so sensibly afflicted her, that she fell into a swoon, and had like to have died by sympathy, so that when my master came to unlock her chamber-door, she lay upon the floor as dead; and being with much ado, brought to life again, she vowed she would be revenged on him for his barbarity: and she was as good as her word: for soon after she took her opportunity, in my master's absence, to go away Anglice Elope, from him, and carried with her all his money, plate, and the richest of his goods; and, as I suppose and have heard, went after the usher, to make him amends for what he suffered, and enjoy their unlawful loves with greater freedom. This misfortune, with what had before befallen him, cast my old master into a fever, and that in a few days call him into the grave, and there was an end of the family, and myself fully revenged both of my master and the usher, without ever being in the least suspected.

*Thus I in youth with petty sins begin,
But commit greater when my hand is in:
Yet this at present is enough to show
Contrivance beyond strength does often go,
By springing secret mines, I overthrow
Those by open force I ne'er could do;
And tho' I am at present under age,
Yet I in deeper crimes shall soon engage.*

C H A P. II.

He returns home to his supposed father and mother, falls in love with a fair shepherdess, gets her with child, and by her comes to understand that he was a foundling, and therefore robs his foster-father, and goes to seek his fortune.

MY master's unhappy end, and the ruin of his family, gave me many melancholy thoughts; for though my mistress's living in adultery with the usher, was that which undermined their prosperity and sapped the foundation of their happiness, yet it was the working out of my revenge

which discovered it, and brought it swiftly upon them. I have often wished that my revenge had been less severe; and have as often thought that my success therein, did but push me on to greater wickedness.

However, it was after my master's death, I returned back to my supposed father's, and was very well received there, where I gave a large account of the unhappy catastrophe of my master's family, but without letting them know that I had any hand in it: my mother now told my father that I had learning enough, and that it was high time I was put to work; (for they found I was unfit for the university) I was well enough pleased with the first part of her discourse, for I confess I had no great inclination to learning; but I did not approve of the latter part of her discourse, for I as little liked working, as I did to go to school. And yet rather than go to school any more, I was willing to try what I could do at it. And so I was put to plow, being about fifteen years of age: I followed that about a week or ten days, and then complained it was too hard for me. At which my younger brother, that was set to keep the sheep, told me he would change with me with all his heart, for he had rather go to plow than keep sheep: so both of us being agreed, it was ordered so, and I was set to keep the sheep. This being a lazy kind of employment, agreed best with my constitution; besides, I had another convenience that rendered it very acceptable to me, for I had an opportunity of conversing with a fair shepherdess, one Jenny Paterson, with whose incomparable beauty, young as I was, I was extremely pleased: and she being a neighbour's child in an adjacent village, we generally fed our flocks together, and by that means had frequent opportunities of seeing and discoursing with each other. This Jenny Paterson as we were once sitting together by our flocks of sheep, asked me whose son I was: Why do you ask me that question, said I, when you know my father? No, but I don't, said she, nor yourself neither. I was surprised to hear her say so, and desired to know the reason: if you do not know, said she, I will tell you: My mother was last week at your house; and she, whom you call mother, told her you were none of her son, but a child that her husband found in the high way, under a bush, wrapt

up in a very rich mantle, with a bundle of clothes by you, and therein several pieces of gold, and that for the sake of those things, and of the gold, they brought you home, and kept you as t'ir own ; and that they did believe you were the bastard of the lord Dundekald's daughter, because some of that family had made a sleeveless errand to their house, to enquire after a horse, and took great notice of you. Well, said I, if it be so, I am of better blood than all the rest ; and I believe it is so, because my mother was always kinder to her other children than to me.

From that day forward, I resolved to seek my fortune with the first convenient opportunity ; but resolved not to go away empty-handed, for since my foster-parents had got so much with me, I resolved to take something from them when I went.

But I was grown so passionately in love with my pretty shepherdess, that I knew not how to live without her ; I got nothing but I gave her some of it, and was always getting something or other, that I might have something to give her : I frequently kissed her, and squeezed her by the hand, and did all that I could to let her know that I would fain have done something more, but so great was her innocence, that she did not understand me.

But it so happened, that one day, when we had drove our sheep to the side of a hill, and the sun shined very hot, we sat down under an adjacent tuft of trees, and there my pretty shepherdess fell fast asleep ; and as she lay, she looked so very tempting, I thought I never could have a better opportunity to taste those unknown joys that nature did so much excite me to. And therefore going very softly to her, I gently removed those impediments that hindered me ; and having all that paradise of bliss laid open to my view, it was impossible I should forbear to taste that sweet, although forbidden fruit. But ere I had got into that bower of blisse, my shepherdess a-waked, and fell a crying ; and would have disengaged herself from my embraces, but that I was too strong for her. And this was the first time that ever I tasted the delights of Venus ; but I had much ado to make my shepherdess be reconciled to me. I told her it was only my excess of love that forced me to it, and that I was afraid to ask her, lest she should deny me. But I perceived one reason of her trouble was, for fear

it should come to her mother's ear; and therefore I solemnly protested, that if she would admit me freely to do what I did before, her mother never should know of it; but otherwise I would myself discover it. This proved a most prevailing argument, and I obtained free licence to renew those joys, that before I had tasted but imperfectly, with much more pleasure to myself than her. In fine, after those few first tears were wiped away, my shepherdess was as well pleased as I, and we oftentimes renewed our love enjoyments.

But in a little time my shepherdess found the sweet poison she so oft had taken began to work, and make her belly swell; and she was very much afraid she could not long prevent her mother's coming to the knowledge of it. I gave her all the comfortable words I could, and told her I would take care to screen her from her mother's eyes, and from her father's anger; and she, sweet innocent, believed my words, though I never meant one word of what I said, but thought how I might get away and leave her, before it was found out. And to that end, it happened luckily soon after there was a great fair kept at Skyrathin, and all our family was to go thither; but I feigning I was not well, resolved to stay at home; which my stepmother (for so she was to me) was very glad of, both because I should then look to the house, and not put them to any charge at the fair; but to encourage me to stay at home the more willingly, she promised to bring me home a fairing; but what it was, I never staid to know: for after they were gone, I locked the doors; and ransacking the house, I pulled the things out of my mother's chest, and there I found the mantle and the clothes that Jenny Paterson had told me of; and looking at a little drawer at the bottom of the chest, I found ten guineas, which I supposed was part of what they had with me, and therefore I looked upon them as my own proper goods. Some silver also I found in my father's cupboard, where I knew he used to put it. And having made up my pack, and put on my best clothes, away I went, directing my course towards Edinburgh, the chief city of the kingdom, hoping there to dispose of the things I had got, and so to make my fortune. I stuffed my pockets full of victuals as I want, because I thought I should get none by the way, (for I could not eat stones, and I could see little else) and

taking the key with me, away I went; but before I went I took my old clothes, shirt and bonnet, and carried them to the banks of Lock-Affin, about half a mile from our house, and in the way that they were to come home, so the end that they being found, I might be thought to be drowned in that lake, (into which I flung the key) and so they should not pursue after me. There was nothing troubled me so much as to leave my pretty shepherdess behind me, exposed to the reproach and anger of her parents by my means, but being with kid, I thought she would hinder me in my journey, and her parents could take better care of her than I could.

*Thus as in years, in mis-births old I grow:
And worse things do, although I better know:
An innocent and beautiful young maid
To sin and shame at once by me betray'd:
From those that brought me up, away I run,
When I, what mischief I could do, had done.*

C H A P. III.

He prosecutes his journey towards Edinburgh, gives an account of an inn he dined at the second day of his journey; how he came to a barn that night, and was frightened by a parcel of gypsies who would have persuaded him to make one among them, which he refused, and why. He buys a horse, and is robbed of both his horse and money; by what stratagem he gets another man's horse, and money to boot.

HAVING packed up my bundle, I made the best of my way towards Edinburgh, not doubting but I should go clear to be two days march before any that should undertake to pursue me. For as they must of necessity pass by the loch or lake, on the banks of which I had placed my old clothes, I did not doubt but that would put them into some consternation; and when they came home, and found the door lock-ed, and yet could find no key, it would be late before they could get in, and see what I had done; that it would amaze them to that degree, that they would not readily know what course to take, nor what to think was become of me.

As for myself, I put the best leg forward, and travelled three or four miles before I saw either village or house; and in all that way met with no body. But at last meeting with a few straggling houses, I went out of my way on purpose to avoid meeting with any one, because I thought, in case they should pursue me, they would enquire at the first houses whether they had seen such a lad gang by that way; and then being told no, they would bend their course another way as believing I had not taken that road: so that I met with no person all that day; and when night came I was forced to take up my lodging under a hedge, and had no other canopy but that of heaven; and though my lodging was but hard, yet being very weary, for I had travelled about eighteen miles, I soon fell fast asleep and waked not till the morning; and though the darkness of the night, and being in a wide field without sight of any houses, at first made me wish to have been at my foster-father's again; yet the remembrance of the condition I had left poor Jenny Paterson in, and that I knew not how soon it might have been found out, and my villany discovered, I was glad I was so far off.

In the morning I visited my potket, to find how my victuals held out, and fell heartily to eating what I had; for though I was so weary I could eat nothing over night, yet I had so good a stomach the next morning, that I made an end of all my victuals; making good the proverb, *Two hungry meals makes a third a glutton.* And now having eat up my victuals, I thought it was time to proceed on my journey; and the days being long and warm, I made the best of my way in the morning. In four or five hours ganging I came in ken of a house, and being hungry again with travelling, I made account to have made a good meal there, and therefore hasted to the house as fast as I could: and tho' at first ken I thought it near, it was too long hours before I could gang to it. When I came near it, I perceived there was a sign at it, and coming nearer I found it to be a woman with a wisp of hay between her legs, and underneath was written, *Here is meat for man and horse;* which I was very glad to see; though I then understood not the true meaning of the inscription or explanation of the figure, which was to tell passengers, that the woman was meat for the man, as hay

was for the horse : but I had no occasion for that sort of meat : but expecting something to fill my belly, I went in and asked what I could have for dinner ; they told me they had nothing but eggs : so I was fain to accept of such as they had ; and they were but poor stuff, for it seems the fox had killed their hens, so that some of their eggs were addle and some were ready to hatch : and that she might not lose her eggs, she mixed them with some good ones ; but they were but very few : for seeing me a little simple youth, and one that looked honestly, she thought any thing would serve me. And coaxing me up, she said, *Bonny lad, from whither art thou ganged ?* I told her from Badenoch near to Lochbar. With that she came nearer to me, and stroaking me on the head, said, *Bonny lad, whither hast thou wandered, for thou art ganged far out of the way ?* I thought so too, in coming to her, for I was afraid I should have been infected with her stinking breath ; her very touching me, I thought had drawn old age upon me : and I began to think no worse evil could befall me, than the meeting with that dirty slut. I told her I was ganging to the court at Edinburgh, and prayed her to bring in my dinner, then she bid me sit down on a lame bench, and on the top of a little block, she spread a dirty dishcloth before me ; and for a salt-cellar, set down the foot of an old broken pitcher, such as she set full of water for the poultry to drink ; and then on this little block thus furnished half a loaf of bread very black and hard ; after this preparation, she brought in upon a plate a fröize of eggs, for so she called it ; but it might more properly have been termed a platter of eggs. But I stood not to examine what they were, being very sharp set, for I was as eager upon it as a hog upon his acorns, and so all went down without chewing : though I think in my conscience I felt the tender bones of the untimely chickens in the eggs crackling between my teeth : I confess this was such usage as I had not been acquainted with ; but as it was the first essay of my travels, I took it patiently, and paying my shot, made all the haste I could away ; thinking (notwithstanding what was written under their sign) it was rather the devil's meat than men's meat ; and so I found it sure enough, for I had not gone far, before I brought up all again, and so paid my money for nothing ; save only that I

I thought I heard the chickens which I found among the eggs cry, *Peep, peep, peep,* in my belly.

My belly being thus empty, and hopes of better victuals appearing, I was fain to recruit myself as well as I could with what I found in the fields; but that was but a sort of raw and indigested food; but yet it was all I could get, and therefore I made shift with it. That afternoon I travelled in much discontent, for I was troubled I could see neither towns nor houses; and the night beginning again to come on, I was afraid I shoud perish with hunger, tho' I had money enough to buy victuals, if I could have told where to have got it. At last I came to the sight of a house, as I thought at least, and with much pains and weariness I got to it, and then found to my sorrow it was only a barn: and there being good straw therein, I went in, and covered myself over head and ears. I was hardly got to sleep, when I was not only waked, but almost frightened out of my wits with a loud and confused noise, of many voices together, which drew nearer and nearer to me; and made me remember the dreadful stories I had heard of fairies, hobgoblins, and Robin-good fellows: this put me into an ague fit, and brought all the villanies I had acted fresh into my mind, as thinking I should now be punished for them. But I had scarce time to think much before I was surrounded with a pack of devils in the shapes of men, gabbling at a prodigious rate, though I was ignorant of what they said, a-not understanding one word: this put me into such a consternation that crying out aloud for mercy, I got up and ran through the midst of them out of the barn; which they seeing, and knowing nothing of my being there, were as much affrighted as I, and set a running as well as myself. Finding myself pursued, and that it was impossible I should escape from them, I fell upon my knees, and begged they would have pity upon me, and they thereupon coming up to me, and seeing me a likely lad, asked me who I was, and from whence I came, and whither I was going. I told them from Inverness, and that I was going up to Edinburgh, where I was to have a place, but having lost my way, and not knowing where any house was, I went into that barn to lie. Thereupon they asked me to go back, and told me I might lie there if I would, fur they would do me no harm. I was glad to

hear them speak in a language that I understood, and so I went back with them into the barn, where they were very civil to me, and gave me my belly full of victuals, and good drink too, but I knew not where they got it, for I saw no house near.

The next morning they urged me very much to be one of them; (for they had told me before they were gypsies and fortune-tellers) and to encourage me, they promised me divers advantages; and among others a pretty young lass of their company, not exceeding fourteen years, which, to speak truth, made my mouth water, besides that it put me in mind of my pretty shepherdess: but I was afraid of my money, and that they would take away my manile, and the other things I was wrapt in, when I was first found by which I hoped to hear of my parents, and so refused to join myself with them.

And now being so far from home, that I was out of fear, I staid at the next town I came to, and enquiring if there was ever a horse to be sold there, I soon heard of a good lusty horse, for which I gave two pounds Sterling; and so being well mounted, I thought I should get the easier to Edinburgh, but alas! I was but a young traveller, and so was the easier imposed upon; for the second day of my riding, being come beyond Badgenoth, I saw a young woman walking before me, but somewhat lamish, and heard her make a kind of bemoaning herself; coming up to her I saw she was very handsome, and being alone, I had an aking tooth to be doing with her: I therefore asked her how she came to be on the road in that condition, so far from any town. She told me that she lived in a house upon the road, about five miles off, which she believed I had seen as I came along; and a party of soldiers that had quartered at Blair-castle, had rifled her house, and wounded both her husband and all her servants, and either killed or carried away all her horses: and that Sir Patrick Agnew being their colonel, she was going to Blair to make her complaint to him, hoping he would both punish them, and make her reparation for the damages she had sustained: the consideration of her distressed condition, together with the hopes I had of enjoying her favour, being extraordinary handsome, made me invite her to get up behind me,

and I would carry her to Sir Patrick Agnew's, which was but a few miles distant. After some little shew of coyness in refusing it, I easily prevailed with her to accept of my offer; and so getting up behind me, she went on with her former discourse, till turning into a nook of a bye-lane, she very nimbly cast a cord about my neck, and pulled the noose so hard, that jumping off the horse, she threw me to the ground half strangled, and giving a shrill cry, two fellows came immediately out of an adjoining thicket, and leading my horse thither, they dragged me after them, where, without any words, they rifled and bound me, taking my money, mantle, and all the things I had away from me, and mounting her behind one of them on my horse, away they rid, while the other was gone in a moment, I knew not whither.

In this condition I lay till the next morning, bemoaning my hard fate, and cursing the time that I bought me a horse, and robbed my foster father, looking upon it as a just judgment upon me. At length, by the help of my teeth, and by much struggling, I got loose, exclaiming upon that woman who had used me so barbarously for my kindness; and that brought to my mind how barbarously I had served pretty Jenny Paterson.

My next busioess was how to repair my loss, for I had now neither money nor money's worth; and which way to get any I knew not: the only way I could think of, was, if I could so contrive it to serve others as she had served me. And as I was thus thinking what I should do, (having gotten into the road again) I saw a man well mounted, riding after me, when immediately a crochett came into my pate, something like what I used to play among my school fellows at Skyrasslin, by which I thought I could get on horseback again; and so lying down upon a little rising bank, I laid my ear to the ground, and as the horseman approached, I lifted up my hands and eyes, in a token of great admiration: which seeing, made his horse stand still, and asked me what it was I admired at? O sir, said I, I heard the most charming melody that ever was in the world I nor do I think the like was ever heard before. The gentleman smiled to hear me say so, saying I was beside myself: but I constantly affirming it with a most serious countenance, clapping my ear to the ground.

again, and then lifting up my eyes and hands towards heaven; as in some ravishing extacy, he was resolved to make his own ears a judge of the truth or falsity of my report, and so alighting from his horse and gave it me to hold till he had tried to bear himself. He was no sooner kneeled down to listen, but I mounted his horse and rid away with it full speed; he running in vain after me, and crying to me to stay, till he was out of breath. But I kept not the road long, but crossed the country, riding I knew not whither, till I believe I had ridden near thirty miles, and then it being late at night I enquired at a small cottage, what the next town's name was, and I was told it was Brechin, and seven miles thither: I then asked if they had any accommodations for man and horse? they answered, if I would turn my horse into the orchard there was grass enough, and they could make shift for a bed for me. And thereupon I alighted, and staid there that night; and causing the portmanteau to be brought into my chamber, when I opened it, I found there, in gold and silver, 25 l. sterling, with some very good linen, a suit of wearing clothes, and several papers, by which I knew both where he lived, which was at Leanny, a town which I had past through; and his business at Edinburgh. I was very well satisfied in the trick I had played, and therefore after having had a good supper in that cottage, though none of the cleanlyest dress, I went to bed and slept heartily; for I did not doubt but I was safe enough, the man believing I was gone to Dunket, because he saw me ride that way.

*Thus being brought to live upon my wit,
I thought my lost attempt a lucky hit;
By which encourag'd, further tricks I'll try;
Till fate at last conclude my destiny.*

C H A P . IV.

He charges his course, and goes to Aberdeen; he gives an account of his cleanly landlady; he robs the carriers packs of five pounds, and lies with the servant maid instead of the carrier. He comes to Aberdeen, and gives a relation of a trick that he was serv'd there.

THE next morning not altogether out of fear, I made haste to get away; but being asked by my landlord from what part I came, I told him, from Dunkel, and that was going north-west, (for I resolved now I would not go to Edinburgh till I might be more secure there) and he luckily answered, He warrant you are ganging tull Aberdeen; and tho' I knew not which way it lay, nor what busines I had here, I told him I was; and he replied, I was in the ready road; but I had better nor gang to Brechin; but tho' I was a little mountainous to Fenticarn, thence to Glenharvy, and so to Dunoiter Castle. I thanked my landlord for his advice, and so made the best of my way, and kept off from any own as much as I could, till necessity urged me.

The next night I lay at a very good inn, (at least, as I was told, for I did not find it so) and was so very weary, that I was forced to lie down upon a bed before supper; and where I heard the hostess say to her maid, Maggie, go fetch me the bed I slet-in, and do you piss in it, and wash it very clean, and give your master a dish of broth in it, but be sure you weel, for there be so many flats, that if I shou'd dee, and our master shou'd marry a flat, wees me! what woul'd be one of the poor mon? The deel tak ye, thought I, if you e no. a flat there is not one in Scotland. Supper being ready, I was called up to come into supper, which, after what I had heard, I had but little stomach to, and to make me have a better, just as I came into the room, my landlady sat a great f—t; Well done, landlady, said I; I am afraid you be not well. "Aye a day! said she, I am so unwieldy, that I know not what to do; I have such thuds of wind, and such blauds of dirt comes from me, that wees me! I am very bad."

While I was at supper, the carriers came into the inn, and brought with them many passengers, which had taken up the best rooms in the inn, so that I was forced to lie in the remotest part of the house where the carriers goods were put, and where the carriers were sometimes laid; but now they were forced to sit up, and let me lie in their bed; this gave me an opportunity to look into several of their packets in the dead time of the night, and see what they contained; by which means I put above five pounds sterlinc in my pockets,

unperceived by any one; for I remembered the proverb, *It is an ill pack that may not pay the custom.* And so having got what I could, I went to bed: but I was no sooner laid down, but I heard one come after me, and presently thought that somebody had seen what I had been doing to the packs; and therefore I locked my door, and drawing my dirk that I had brought from home with me, I resolved rather to kill them that dogged me, and to gang away early in the morn, than to be taken for such a crime, in a strange place; but as the proverb has it, *I was never frightened than I was hurt,* it falling out better than my expectation; for one knocked softly at my door, crying in a womanish voice, *My dear, my dear, open the door.* I was indeed much surprized to think what it might mean, but since I knew it was a woman's voice, I was resolved to let her in; and so laying my dirk under my pillow, I rose and opened the door, and went to bed again, she following me in her smock; and lying down by me; I have waited, said she, ever since I saw you first among your packeis: how came you in so late to night? By this I perceived the lass mistook me for the carrier that used to lie there, with whom she had used this familiarity: and so counterfeiting the carrier, and telling her my horses were fallen lame, I gave her what she came for, and served her as I used to do Jenny Pateleton, my pretty Shepherdess. And she seemed to be very well satisfied with my performance; being very willing to receive what I gave her. But about five in the morning she left me, that she might not be discovered by her master, for this I found was Maggy, whom I liked better than I should have done her mistress; and soon after I got up myself, and having paid my shot, left the inn before the carrier was got up; and then made what haste I could for Aberdeen, where I arrived the evening following. And having got a good horse and thirty pounds sterling in my pocket, I esteemed myself as rich as an emperor.

Soon after, there being a fair at Kinkel, I disposed of my horse, lest he should happen to be challenged by the true owner. And buying a new suit, I thought myself an absolute gentleman, spending my money as light as it came.

C H A P. V.

He gives an account of several cheats which he committed in Aberdeen; and how he got a companion, and learned from him the art of begging and stealing, and how attempting to steal a silk plaid, he was taken, put in prison, and whipt for the same.

HAVING by an unfortunate intrigue at Aberdeen utterly spoiled my new clothes, I was obliged to diminish my stock by purchasing another suit, which brought my money to a very low ebb, so that poverty was almost ready to stare me in the face; which put me upon new contrivances to get more, but how to do it is the question: well, our proverb tells us, *she is a fairy mouse that has but one hole.* And I found if I tarried for sic an opportunity as I had before, I mun e'en starve; and therefore I saw a necessity for something to be done, and all occasions to be laid hold of. And seeing a man, who was going to make some fire works, had his eyes (by their accidental going off) a little blotted with gun powder, and thereupon fancied he was struck blind, fell a raving and stamping to that degree, that in spite of the proverb, there appeared little difference between *staring and stark mad:* I thereupon seeing him in a good garb, and believing therefore he carried money in his breeches, went in and asked him what he ailed? he told me his disaster, and that he was contriving for a dog and a bell to lead him about. I told him that I had once an acquaintance of mine in the same condition; who, notwithstanding all the importunities and persuasions of his friends, could not be prevailed with to keep his eyes shut but for one quarter of an hour; by which wilfulness he was utterly deprived of his eye-sight, which he sadly repented afterwards; and therefore, said I, as you value that precious jewel of your sight, forbear to handle, or open your eyes for some short time, and upon my word, you will thank me for my advice, when you have found the benefit of it: and the deel a bit of a lie was it, for setting the loon up, like an image against the wall, with his hands before him, and diving into his pockets, I took eighteen merks Scots, which was five times as much as

an able doctor would have expected, and so I went my way, leaving my patient to verify the old proverb, *None so blind as he that will not see.*

Some time after this, I met with a young companion, but an older rogue than myself; and such a one I had wanted a good while, for my ill-gotten goods did not thrive; it being generally true, that what is got over the deel's back, is spent under his wame; and being reduced to beggary, I knew not how to sustain myself; for I made but a very sorry beggar; but my new companion and I became very intimate in a little time; insomuch that we were soon sworn brothers: we begged together, lay together, and were one in every thing.

It was our custom, in the close of the evening, to beg at doors, which if we found open, we went in without any ceremony; and if we found none in the way, what we laid hands on was our own, for we immediately rubbed off with it; but if we saw any body, then we shewed ourselves members of the whipping academy, begging for heaven's sake to shew their charity upon two diseased wretches that were so troubled with the falling-sickness: and some were so credulous as to believe us, and give us alms; but others seeing us a couple of sturdy young lads, threatened us with a whipping-post; but their threatenings could not deter us from hitching when it lay in our way, which was not seldom; for we got more by stealing than by begging: but the pitcher never gangs so often to the well, but it comes broken home at last; and so it fared with me: for as I was going through New Aberdeen, seeing a door open, and the coast clear, I whipt up stairs, and happily laid my hands on a very fine silk plaid; and being overjoyed with the goodness of the prize, I forgot how near I was to the stair head, and so made but one step from the top of the stairs to the bottom; and made so horrid a noise in the fall, that I soon brought the whole house about my ears, which made my companion rub off as fast as he could; but poor I was forced to abide the brunt: for having taken me up, and searched me, though they found nothing upon me, yet they finding the silk plaid upon the ground by me, were so civil as to provide a lodging for me in Aberdeen gaol; though I thought they themselves had done enough to me, to satisfy them for my crime, for one kicked

me, and another boxed me, first on one side, and then on the other, and threatened to have me hanged, but there they were mistaken, for I was only severely whipped, and then forced to lie in prison for my fees : where I became acquainted with a whole gang of rogues, dignified and distinguished by files, lifts, jilts, rummers, heavers, &c. Who seeing how forward I was to be one of them, promised me, that if ever we met abroad, they would instruct me in a trade which would bring me in a livelihood, though I afterwards found, had I followed their instructions, it would surely have put me out of one.

After I had been long in prison, and despaired of ever coming out, my old comrade sent a youngster to me (for he durst not come himself, because the keepers knew him) who unexpectedly brought me more money than would discharge my fees, with directions where I should come to him when I was got out. Upon this I joyfully went to the master-gaoler, telling him, that I had a friend had sent me some money, and therefore I desired to know what I was indebted to him, and I would pay it, provided I might be discharged ; to which he readily consented, and was as willing to be rid of me as I was to be gone.

Thus I in Aberdeen still further ran
In wicked ways, beyond what I had done :
For as it was an university,
I was fit I there should take my first-degree :
And commence graduate in roguery :
And in the following chapters you may view,
How I therein at last a doctor grew.

C H A P. VI.

He meets with his old comrade who encourages him to go on in thievirg. They join with a parcel of robbers, and had like to have been taken. His comrade picks a man's pocket, and gives him the money. His comrade is seized and carried to prison, but he escapes and goes to Monitrose, where he lies with his landlady and her daughter unknown to each other. He goes to Aberdeen, and sees his old companions hanged.

I HAD no sooner got my heels at liberty, but I fell a running, as if I had intended to run out of my wits, and never stopt till I came to the place to which my comrade had directed me; where finding of him, you may imagine there was no small joy at our meeting; and therefore we concluded to booz it rumly all the remainder of that day, in token of our rejoicing. When we had each of us drank one another's health in a chphin of ale, he recounted to me all his adventures sence my imprisonment, and how successful he had been in them all, and then taking me by the hand, come, lad, quoth he, ne'er be disheartened for one ill bargain; "blaw the wind never so fast, it will calm at the last; and "a yuil feast may quat at pasche;" Ifc put thee in a way to make amends for thy whipping.

Encouraged with these words, I resolved to go on with him again, and try what luck I could have, for well I knew the proverb, "A Scotsman is wise behind the hand;" and so, as soon as night approached, we did several exploits, and came off well; and the day and night following, we had the like success, by which means we got money enough to newrig us, having first uncas'd, and left the old behind us.

I begun now to be weary of Aberdeen, and had proposed it to Charles Macdole (for that was my companion's name) to go into the Lowlands, and see what business we could meet with there. But, as ill luck would have it, I quickly after met with one of my gaol bird companions, who had promised me such mighty things in prison, he was overjoyed to see me, and especially at such a time when he told me he could serve me; but, said he, I am now going to meet with some, according to appointment, *who will make us all*; and, by my soul, he had been right had he but added, *be hanged*. And so taking my comrade and me with him, we went where we found a jolly company drinking after a strange rate, to the good success of that night's work. In a little time I understood their meaning; for, said one of the gang, come, let us leave off drinking now, for you know we have a weighty business to go about; no less than a thousand pounds ster-ling ready gilt, besides plate and jewels; and thereupon they fell a plotting how to contrive the business to the best advan-tage. And at last it was agreed upon, that myself and com-

rade should be the forlorn hope, or more properly be made Perdues ; for our charge was to get into the house designed to be robbed, and hide ourselves in some obscure place, and, at the appointed hour, let in our masters.

I was unwilling to be thought faint hearted, and therefore undertook to be one, though at the same time I trembled when I thought of it ; which my comrade perceiving, shook me by the hand, and bid me be of good courage, for he would warrant all w^wd be well : upon which, being confirmed, away we went.

A little before night, my comrade had lodged himself in the house, but I knew not where ; and resolving not to be behind hand with him, I got underneath the stairs in a hole descending into the cellar, as convenient as if it had been made on purpose. There was a clock in the house, which I very watchfully observed, but thought the hour too slowly went away ; at last it struck twelve, which was the fatal hour appointed ; and so out I got from my hiding place, and, going to the door, met full butt with my comrade, who was as diligent as I to let them in ; and we found them as ready to enter as we were to let them in. He that brought us among them, whose name was Macduncan, coming to me, whispers in my ear, I have done business to night already, and putting a bag of money into my hand, keep this, said he, till we come to our rendezvous, and give it me then privately ; so leaving us two centinels at the door, up stairs they mounted, while I (for I knew not what my comrade did) stood trembling below. They above in a trice had secured all that was in the house, by gagging and blinding them, and just as they were within ken of their booty, we heard a great noise in the street, and seeing several people coming at a distance with bills and staves, we betook ourselves to our heels in time, and got at a good distance unperceived, where we stood to see whither they went, and soon perceived them to go to that house ; for, as we afterwards understood the gentleman of the house having been that night at ~~say~~, and quarrelled with some other gentleman, was attended home by several gentlemen, and guarded by a constable with his watch, left the other with whom he had quarrelled n^t d have insulted him ; and coming to his house, wondered to

see his doors open, and hearing a noise above stairs, sent up one of the watchmen, to see what was the matter, but on a sudden hearing two or three pistols go off, my comrade and I thought it very proper for us to retreat whilst we might, lest we might be taken for some of the gang; and so went to our lodgings, which was quite at the other end of the town; where they knowing nothing of what had happened, we went very soberly to bed very glad of the escape we had made. And seeing my comrade knew nothing of the bag of money I had delivered to me, I was resolved to conceal it, being willing to be rid of him as soon as I could, remembering the proverb, *Better be alone than in ill company.*

Next morning my comrade would have had me get up, and enquire after the condition of our new masters; but I, pretending an indisposition, requested the same thing of him; but advised him to be very cautious how he did it: thereupon he immediately rose, and went into the town to the street where the house was that was designed to have been robbed; where there was a vast concourse of people, and a man lay dead: and there he heard what I have before related, and also that the constable and watch going up, and the thieves finding themselves in a pond, fired three pistols, and wounded some, but killed none; and that as one was endeavouring to escape, a watchman with his bill knocked out his brains, so that he fell down dead: and my comrade crowding in to see the man that was killed, found it to be Duncan who had given me the bag of money; the rest were carried to the tolbooth, and in a fair way to be hanged, as they were all at the next sessions. While my comrade was gone to learn this news, I examined my bag, and found therein, 130 pieces of good broad Jacobus gold, and about 10 l. Sterling in silver. I was amazed at such a glorious sight, and had a good mind to resolve to be honest, and so march off before my companion came back again; but the desire I had to know what became of our new masters, and the remembrance of Macdole's former kindness, deterred me from that resolution. However, getting a needle and a thread, I quilted up the gold in the collar of my coat, against a rainy day, and had just secured it before my comrade came back.

As soon as he came and told me the sad tidings, I really

nented Duncan's unhappy fate, and could not but reflect on the great contingency of all human affairs; and yet could not but entertain some secret joy, that by Duncan's death the gold was honestly my own, without a rival. However, to appear generous, and a little since into the bar-room, I discovered then to my comrade, that I had received a bag with ten pounds sterling in it from Duncan the night before, as he was going up stairs, with a charge I should say nothing of it to any body. But now, said I, that he is dead, will even share it between us. My comrade was mightily revived with this discovery, for before we could not raise six shillings Scots between us; and then told me he thought was the best way to leave Aberdeen while we were well, for we were so well known there, that should we be taken for any thing, we might be hanged for company. To this also agreed, but was willing first to see what became of our new masters. And to this my companion consented, we being resolving to live very soberly in the mean time, and to spend but little; for though we had 5 l. sterling each in our pockets, yet we remembered it was better to spare at the top, nor at the bottom.

But it being three months before the sessions, tho' we lived not very extravagantly, yet our pockets began to grow weary; which my companion taking notice of, was for doing little business while we staid there; for need gars naked in runs, and sorrow gars wehsters spin: and the truth is, as ill to take that out of the flesh that is bred in the bone. And so we resolved to try what we could do: and ganging along very soberly, we saw a man receive a good parcel of money in a shop, which he put up into a bag, and then put in his pocket. Says my comrade, Let us follow that man and make his money our own. With all my heart, said I: who shall pick his pocket? For that we'll draw cuts, dice, and if it falls to my turn to dive, you shall hold; and if you dive I will hold: we soon agreed, and drawing lots, it fell to my turn to hold. So together we went after him: and the man kept his hand in his pocket where his money was; and in the market-place there stood a mountebank showing tricks, which gar'd the man to stay and look on, with his hand still in his pocket; which my comrade see-

ing, stoops and lifts up a straw, and tickles him on the ear, which by that means itching, he pulls his hand out of his pocket to scratch his ear, and my companion in the mean time dives into his pocket, and pulls out the bag, which I standing by him, he immediately gives to me, and I marched off with it; but the country man finding his money gone, presently catched hold of my comrade, and challenges him with it, he denies it: but one, that it seems to k notice of it, told the man he saw him run a straw into his ear, and thereupon the country man cried out, Then it was that he lost his moncy, for before he kept his hand in his pocket. Upon this the multitude gathered about him and carried him before a justice, who happened to know him to be an old offender, and being searched, though the country man's bag was not found about him, yet they found a piece of money in his pocket, which was part of what Duncan gave me, that was challenged by the justice himself, who had been robbed the same night that Duncan had told me they had been doing businss. So that his *mittimus* was immediately made, and he sent to goal to tell our new masters how he escapt before. I thought now it was high time for me to make the best of my way; for whether he had told them I had the money, or whether he had been seen to give it me, I know not; but my landlady's maid who had a kindness for me, I having been kind to her in more respects than one, gave me notice that their house had been searched for me; and therefore desired me not to come home. But she might have saved herself that labour; for when I heard they had been there to see for me, I resolved not to stay another night in that town, but to take care of myself, let the others be hanged if they would; and therefore, without taking my leave of any one, I went that night to Drum, and pursued my journey the next day, not thinking myself safe till I was got as far as Montrose, which was above forty miles distance.

When I came to Montrose, I went into one of the best inns in the town, and the next day sent for a taylor, and put myself into a genteel Highland garb, which made me look of quite another figure than what I did before; giving out that I came from Skye, for I had been now five years from thence, and did not fear being known at Montrose.

Here I staid near three months, and liked my lodgings very well, for my landlady was a widow, and one that was bonny and blithe enough, and she had a daughter that none in the town could equal for her beauty. Indeed the mother was very handsome; and I liked them both very well: and they had both a kindness for me, the difference being only this, that I courted the daughter, and the mother courted me. I had been, with many fair words, and some gifts, besides, so successful in my courtship to the daughter, that I had obtained a promise from her to lig by her side; and the time being appointed, the door was to be left shut to, which I was to open, and come to her bed-side without asking any questions: but being in the dark, I mistook the door, and went into the mother's chamber; and going directly to the bed-side, which, though I had no light, I readily found, and taking her by the hand, said I, my bonny lass, I am come to lig by thee. With that my landlady, who knew my voice, said, Why, how now, Donald, are you come to surprise me? you should have given me a little more notice, and I would have been readier to receive you. You can hardly think how much I was confounded when I found I was mistaken. But I had said so much, there was no going back; and therefore offering to go into bed to her, Hold, said she, I never yet gave you this freedom; and why you should come without giving me some notice, I understand not. I was glad to hear her thus capitulate, and therefore designed to make that an excuse to withdraw: and so began to excuse myself: I am sorry, said I, that what I intended well, and thought would surprisely please you, should give you an offence: but since it is so, I will return to my own bed again: for when our flames burn not with equal ardour, enjoyment will be but a languid thing. With that she clasped me in her arms, and pulled me into bed to her: To let you see, quoth she, my dearest Donald, how tenderly I love you, I will accept your visit, and let your joy anticipate these nuptial rites that should have been before them: and do not doubt but your will perform them afterwards. Nay, if you doubt my faith, said I, let us postpone our joys till that be done: and thereupon again attempted to get from her, but it was in vain, she stuck to me like bird-lime, and would not

Let me go. No, no, said she, I have no distrust of you, and therefore tell you, I am at your devotion, to do what you please with me ; and therewithal took me about the neck and kissed me. I found I had now no way left, but to take up with the mother instead of the daughter. And thereupon I answered her desires to so much satisfaction, that she expressed herself extremely pleased, and was loth to part with me. But I told her I had left my chamber door open, and I knew not what damage that might be to me. But now that I was certain of a good reception, I should visit her often : with which excuse, and the renewing of our mutual embraces once more, I left her to her repose, but not without a ring which she presented me with for my good service, with such embraces and kisses as shewed how dear I was to her.

Having come off well in this engagement with the mother, I was now extremely concerned how I should come off with the daughter. And, come what would, I resolved to meet her late, (or rather early) than not at all. For I found myself well enough provided, to pay a bill upon sight still ; not being able to bear the thought of letting her languish any longer under a disappointment.

So that having left the mother in a sound sleep, I went straight to the daughter, whom I found awake : upon my coming near the bed side, she began to upbraid me with my breach of promise, and being false to her, for she said she heard me go by the door to somebody else two hours before, and that I came back but half an hour ago. This made me think she had known what had past between her mother and I ; but I had a lie ready at hand, and I told her she was somewhat mistaken ; for though she might have heard somebody go along the gallery, yet it was not myself, but her mother, who came to my chamber to talk with me, complaining that she could not sleep ; and I thought, said I, she would never have gone again, though I told her she would catch cold, and by all means to go back to her bed : and with much ado I got rid of her : but being jealous lest she might return, I went to her chamber to hear how things went ; and by her snoring, find she is fast asleep. So that now, my dear, the coast is clear for you and I. She was very well satisfied with my excuse : and thereupon admitted me into her bed first ; and afterwards,

upon a little parley, gave way to a closer intimacy; and suffered me to enter into the bower of bliss; which I found by the difficulty of the passage, had admitted of no visitors before: with which I was extremely pleased, as well, because she was incapable of judging of my performance, as that I meant to inclose her for my own: and notwithstanding the engagement I had had with the mother, I renewed my assault upon the daughter with such effect, that I had the satisfaction of her confessing to me, that the pleasure I had given her, had so much obliged her, that herself, and all she had was entirely at my service. But by this time the dawning of the morning beginning to appear, we parted by consent, with faithful promises of an entire affection for each other.

Having thus pleased both the mother and the daughter, I went to my own bed, and there lay till I was called up to dinner: where they both blushed for a reason they both knew, and yet thought each other ignorant of, both privately thanking me for my good company that night; and I returning reciprocal thanks to both; which afterwards I each other enjoyed with both with so much privacy, that the one knew not what the other did; and though both were very kind to me, yet the one knew not the reason of the other's kindness.

While I thus lived at rack and manger, between the mother and the daughter, a gentleman that came to lodge one night at the inn in his way to Edinburgh, told us, while we were at supper, that he had been at Aberdeen, where the sessions had been newly held for trying of criminals: at which several robbers had been condemned to die for breaking open and robbing a house, but before they could carry off their prize, they were taken by the master of the house's coming home, having been that night a gaming, and happening to quarrel with the gentleman whose money he had won, who then came home to guard him very seasonably to take the cues, who were in the height of their business, and by that means saved above a thousand pounds. I was too sensibly concerned in that business not to know they were my companions: and, hearing by the gentleman, that they were not to die the week following, I resolved to take my last farewell of them, and see them fairly turned off. To which end I lay with my landlady the night following, and after I had done

what she expected, I told her I had earnest business at Badenoch, where I had occasion to tarry two or three days, and therefore desired her to lend me a good horse for that time. She was very willing to oblige me, but would have had me married her first : but I told her I could not stay so long, but would be sure to do it when I came back, which, at the farthest, would be next week. And telling her how great a detriment it would be to me to defer my journey a day longer, she was willing I should go the next morning. After which I was forced to make a visit to the daughter, my dear Douglas, for so was her Christian name ; and telling her of my journey, she was all in tears, so that I was troubled with too much love. However, to pacify her, I swore to her in a most solemn manner, that I would marry her as soon as I came back ; but I charged her not to say a word of it to her mother.

So the next morning, being every way well accoutred, I took my leave both of mother and daughter, (the latter having much ado to forbear crying at parting) and so instead of going to Badenoch, I went directly for Aberdeen, having a very good gelding under me, and happened to come there the very night before execution day : I lay in that part of the town where I was least known, and so got up the next morning and mounted on horseback to see the prisoners go to execution ; and among them poor Charles Macdole my old companion ; which affected me so much, that I would have given all I was worth to save his life ; but, at the same time, I had the wit to consider, that to go about to save him, would be to hang myself : but I loved myself better than so, and therefore was resolved to see him go first. They were hanged one after another, and our seven new masters being hiltied up from their vituals, Macdole happened to be the last when he was mounted the ladder, the parson bid him greet for his sins, and make a fair confession, which he did : and truly I believe a true one : for he told them he had a companion whose name was Donald Macdonald, with whom he had done many wicked exploits ; and described me so well, that if I had not been much altered, as well in person as name, (which I changed to Macduff) I had been in danger of being taken. Then, after much greeting, they soon turned him by

off, putting him out of his pain, and me out of mine; for then I was sure he could tell no more tales.

*Old friends must part, how dear soe'er they be,
When once the rope concludes their destiny:
But tho' Macdole be gone, 'tis no great loss,
Since I two better friends found at Montross.
But you must think I had enough to do,
To please the mother and the daughter too,*

C H A P VII.

He leaves Aberdeen and goes to Brechin, and from thence sends for his landlady's daughter to come to him, with a promise to marry her: she comes, and while she goes to buy some things, in order to her wedding, he is sent for by a gentlewoman to speak with her, who proves to be his pretty Shepherdess: He thereupon leaves the other, goes out of town with the Shepherdess, and marries her. She relates the history of her travels.

TH E fatal exit of Macdole and his companions, made me unwilling to lie one night more in Aberdeen, and so crossing the river Kinder, I went to Monymusk, and so to Bamach, and from thence to Lumfannan, and so directed my course to Brechin, which is a large and fair town, and was anciently an Episcopal seat. There I considered what I had best to do; for though I was young, lusty and strong, yet the doing of double duty was too much for me; and besides methought to have to do with both mother and daughter, was unnatural: I must own I had a real love for the daughter, who deserved it from me, being very handsome, of a good understanding, and withal very modest, and of an obliging nature; but her mother was a lustful beast, and one that, after the first transports of that eager passion was over, grew nauseous to me: yet I was forced to gratify her for my own interest. Therefore what I had now to consult, was, whether I should go back to Montrose, or make the best of my way for Edinburgh, and see what was to be done there. By that means I should be absolutely rid of the mother; but

I was loth to forsake my pretty Douglas, as knowing what solemn oaths I had sworn to marry her ; and how it was upon that score, she yielded up her virgin treasure to me ; besides, if I married her, her portion was 100 l. sterling, which her mother could not hinder her of ; and that I thought would be a great convenience to me, whatever should happen. So that upon the whole matter, I resolved for once to be honest, and make good my word to her, that her reproach might be taken away, and my drudgery with her mother be at an end.

In order to this, I writ a letter to her, desiring her to come to me, and we would consummate our nuptials there, which she answered by the same messenger, telling me I might expect her there the next day without fail. I was well pleased with her answer, and was now fully resolved to fulfil my promise, by marrying her, and living honestly with her. For I had had such familiarity with her mother, I did not believe she would declare it herself. And I thought her displeasure should wear off in a little time, when she found there was no remedy.

The next day my Douglas came according to her promise. I was very glad to see her, and tell her I was now resolved to make good my word and marry her ; that so I might be out of danger of her mother's courtship who continually solicited me to the same purpose.

I am sorry, said she, my mother should become my rival, but am glad I have got the advantage of her ; and considering what has past between us, you show yourself an honest man, and I shall endeavour to oblige you for it ; and thereupon gave me some pieces of gold, which she had kept a long time by her.

She then told me she would go to her cousin's, where she intended to lodge this night, and get her to go with her to buy her some things for she intended to tell her she was to be married to-morrow, with her mother's consent ; and desired me to come thither to her in the evening, she showing me the house before we parted, which I promised her I would be sure to do.

I had scarce parted from her, but a young lad belonging to a stately mansion-house comes to me, and tells me a gentle-

Woman at their house desired to speak with me. With me ! said I, somewhat surprised. Yes, sir, said he, I am sure it is with you : for she pointed to you as I went along : so I made no more words, but went with him, thinking it might have been Douglas's mother who had followed her : but I soon found I was mistaken. It was a gentlewoman whom I knew not, in a good garb, and of an extraordinary beauty ; that, at the first sight of her I thought I saw something so extraordinary charming, that I never saw a face before that pleased me half so much ; but could not imagine what business she should have with me. At my coming in, says the lad, The gentleman's here, madam. Well, said she, go your ways down then ; which he immediately did. Then addressing herself to me, Mr. Macdonald, said she, how have you done this great while ? I remembered I had heard that voice before, but could not for my life tell whose it was ; so that I knew yet what to answer. Do you not know me, sir ? said she. No, madam said I, not at all. Ah false young man ! replied the gentlewoman, I wish you never had ; I might have been then innocent and happy ; but you betrayed me first to your embraces, and then basely left me — I was still ignorant who this should be, nor could I for my life imagine it. Pray, madam, said I, let me know your name — — Have you forgot me then, said she, already ? this is an aggravation of your crime ; especially to me, who can never forget you while I live. But since it is so, farewell thou false and faithless man ; go perish in thy ignorance for ever — — and therewithal was leaving the room. But I took hold of her, and held her fast, begging upon my knees she would discover to me who she was. Well then, said she, since you will not otherwise be satisfied, I am the person whom once you styled your pretty Shepherdess — O heavens ! said I, can this be Jenny Paterson ? I am the very same, said she, all but the burden you left me with — At which I was in such a mighty transport, I hugged her till I had almost stopt her breath ; and kissed her with that mighty eagerness, that I could have dwelt upon her lips for ever. At which I saw she was not much displeased. But when these transports were a little over, and I had recovered breath enough to speak ; How in the name of wonder came you hither, and thus transform-

ed, said I, from a poor pretty shepherdess into a lady of consummate beauty? That will be now, said she, too long to tell you. But pray, let me ask you one question first, said she. A thousand, madam, if you will, said I. Are you a single man, said she, or married? Not married yet, said I, I thank my happy stars, altho' upon the very brink of it. At this she changed her countenance, and asked me how I meant upon the brink of it? Why to be plain with you, said I, I came unto this town but yesterday, but have been near this three months at Montrose, where I was courted by my land-lady, who is a widow, and to whom I carried it fair, but was in the mean time courting her daughter; and the mother being very urgent with me to marry her, I desired her to delay it till I came to town again; for I have been this week at Aberdeen, from whence I came back but yesterday, and sent a messenger to the daughter, to meet me here to day, that I might marry her to morrow; and she is accordingly come, and is gone to a kinswoman of hers in this street, to get things ready, in order to be married to morrow morning. And do you intend to be married to her to-morrow morning, said she? No, said I, not now I have met with you; if you are willing I should make good my promise unto you. At which words she began to smile again; Donald, said she, for so you know I used to call you, when we kept sheep together; when I first granted you that favour, which I never did, nor never will grant to another while you are alive, you promised solemnly you would marry me. And though I do perceive you have been very near breaking your word, you say you have got done it yet, and it is within your power still to perform what you have promised me; and as I do believe I am the first to whom you ever made that promise, it makes all other promises to whom I ever made, to become void and null. And therefore since you are like to be beset by your expecting bride while you stay here, it will be your best way to go from hence with all the best speed you can.

I could not well tell what to think of this proposal; for although she was much more fair and charming than the other, (for Douglas was but a mere doud, compared to Jenny Paterson) yet how her circumstances lay I knew not. And therefore I replied, I cannot do that immediately, for I have

got a horse here that is my landlady's, and I must take care first to send home that, and then provide another that can carry double.

No, no, says she, you need not provide any thing, let me alone to provide horses both for myself and you: do you resolve to go with me, and all shall soon be ready. Besides too, while your horse stands there, she will think you are still in town, and will be willing for a time to wait, to see or hear what is become of you. And if you have left any thing behind you, take you no care, it shall be all made up to you; and so she left me to get things ready.

I was extremely pleased to hear her speak after this comfortable rate. And thereupon casting off all farther care of Douglas, I resolved to be honest to Jenny who was my first love, and who had my maiden head, as I had hers. And tho' I believe I had Douglas's too, yet to be honest to both was to be honest to neither; and therefore since I had promised Jenny first, and now I must marry one, I resolved to marry her. I confess I was a little troubled to think how Douglas would be disappointed; but as I did not at first intend it, so there was no avoiding of it; besides, by this means I would be quite clear from her mother, to all intents and purposes; which, for ought I know, might be no small deliverance: for nothing is more implacable than a disappointed widow. But I had not much time for these considerations, for Mrs. Jenny soon after returning, told me she had given orders for the horses, and all things would be ready immediately; having herself put on a riding suit, ready for our journey. By and by comes in several servants, bringing in a very noble collation, and the cloth being immediately laid, she asked me to take part of a small refreshment before we went, which I accepted; she desiring me to take no notice to any one there but that I was already her husband.

Soon after there came two gentlemen into the room, and told me I was very welcome, and that madam Macdonald had given many a long look for me; I told them that though I had not been a long time with her, yet I was not unmindful of her. We had scarce made an end of eating, before a servant came in and told me the horses were ready. And thereupon we immediately took horse, and left Brechin, riding to

Panmore, and so to Badenoch, to which (though we had but lonesome travelling over the mountains) we arrived the next day : but that night we took up our lodging at Panmore, and had but a very indifferent house for our quarters ; and there, perceiving she had gone by the name of Macdonald, as being my wife, so I did not question but we should have laid together that night ; but she absolutely refused it ; and gave me such reasons for her denial, that I acquiesced therein, and thought myself exceeding happy, in being likely to have such a charmingly beautiful, and yet virtuous wife.

The next day we came to Badenoch, where we likewise lay apart the first night, and the next morning accompanied by our host and hostess, we were married ; and were laid to bed that night with all the formalities usual in such cases : and then I found her a very agreeable bed fellow, and one that merited a better husband.

After we had performed those conjugal rites, which I would have done two nights before. I had a mind to know how matters stood with her ; and how she came to be transformed, or rather metamorphosed, from an ignorant country shepherdess, to one that was in every respect, both as to garb and manners an accomplished gentlewoman. And therefore, after having given her two or three kisses, my dear pretty shepherdess, said I, you see I have answered your desire and married you by an implicit faith ; that is, without asking you questions ; and now, pray let me know the history of your life, since I left you at Ardnaglas ; and how you came to be so altered from what you were then.

Upon this, my wife (for so she now was) returned me this answer ; My dear, since you have taken away my reproach by marrying me, that I can no longer lie under the imputation of being what I always hated to be, a whore, I will deny you no satisfaction that I am able to give you : and therefore as to what you have demanded, take the following account.

I think it was upon the fair day at Skyrassie that you left your foster-father's house, in such a manner that none could tell what became of you. As they came home by the banks of Loch-Alfin, they found your old clothes, shirt and bonnet, which put them all into a great fright : they called for you, but could make none hear : and so concluded you were

drowned as you attempted to swim. So taking your clothes, they felt in your pockets for the key of the house, but could never find it, neither there, nor any where. At last they went home, believing you had left it in the door : but not finding it there, and having looked all about for it, to no purpose, they at length broke open the door, and then to their great surprise, they found their house rifled, some money scattered upon the ground, and some gold, and those rich mantles which they found with you, carried all away, which at first they thought had been done by you ; but, about three months after, were convinced to the contrary. But at the first they exclaimed against you as a false loon, and one that had undone them. The next day after, I came to hear all this, and was even ready to die with grief. When I thought you was drowned I was even ready to drown myself to bear you company ; but when I thought you had gone away and left me behind you, I was like one drowned in tears, and had made myself sick with crying incessantly. My mother asked for what reason I grieved so ? I told her very innocently, for your death. Why, said she, what if Donald be dead, what hurt is that to you ? O, said I, foolishly and passionately, then I am ruined and undone. My mother presently took hold of these words, which I would have recalled, but could not. How, said she, ruined and undone ! Why, what has he done to you ? Nothing, said I. Nothing ! said she. Why then are you ruined and undone ? And while I knew not what to answer, she came to me, and took up my coats, and felt upon my bairn : out upon ye, for a whore, said she, why, you have let him get you with bairn. I made her no answer, but fell crying : and she stamped, and raved, called me a thousand impudent whores, asking me where, and when, and how this come about. I told her the truth, and that enraged her more, and made her call you as many loons and rogues, as she called me whores : and, in the midst of all this rage and passion, came in my father, who not knowing the reason, took my part, but when she had told him the cause, he was like a man distracted, and ready to knock me on the head, beating me with a holy wand upon my shoulders to that degree, that I thought he would have killed me ; and for ought know if my mother had not prevented him, and took me a-

way out of his sight. But though he did not kill me, he had so bruised me, that I could not stir out of my bed for many days; all which time I lived a wretched and miserable life, both with my father and my mother, which made me resolve to seek my fortune in some other country, and stay with them no longer, who were so inhuman to me, for that which was not so much my fault as thine, my dearest Donald. Could I have thought, said I, they would have been so barbarous, I would have took thee with me, though I had begged my bread with thee—But pray proceed.

It was two months before I got tolerable well, so as to be able to go abroad: and though I was never beat by them afterwards, yet I was baited continually. In this while a parcel of robbers set upon some gentlemen near Fern, who lived at Colmaly, and your father, being then not far off, rid up to them and assisted them against the robbers whom they pursued to some mountains not far from Esbrew, and there took them, and several others in a cave, where there was abundance of things which they had stolē: all which with the persons, were carried to Balnogwy castle, and among them were the rich mantles which they took from your foster-father's that day that you went away, and several other things: which made every body think they were those that had rifled your foster-father's house, and had killed you. At this news my grief was renewed: for I was now quite out of hopes of ever seeing you more. However, when they came to die (for they were all hanged) they affirmed that they never robbed any house at Ardnaglas, but that they had those things from a young man between Badenoch, and Loch-Leche, whom they robbed, and left bound in a wood.

But however it was, I was resolved to leave my father and mother, and see whether I could meet with better treatment abroad; for I was sure I could not meet with worse than I had at home. And so, about ten weeks after you had been gone, I got up betimes in the morning, and made the best of my way over the desolate mountains, I knew not whither myself, having no food but what I brought along with me; and indeed, a very little served me. I met very few in my travel, and I was so much the better pleased, for I was afraid of meeting any body, lest they should either kill me, or o-

therwise abuse me. At length I came within sight of a town, but the name of it I knew not; though I afterwards understood it was called Dingwel: and having got a little money, I enquired where they sold any ale, and thither I went, and sat me down, and called for a chopin of ale; and there considering the desolate condition I was in, I fell a crying: the people of the house asked me the reason; I told them I had married a husband against my friends consent, and he had gone away and left me. They all pitied me, and asked me if I would go to service? I told them I would rather do anything than wander up and down as I did; so they told me they'd hear out for a place for me, and I should tarry there in the mean time, and so they set me to do some business, which they seemed to be very well satisfied with. And in two ays time I got a place, whither I went, and pleased them very well; I had not been there above a fortnight, but a gentlewoman who was related to the family, came thither from Inverness, who was very much taken with me, and showed me a great deal of her respect; and I was also extraordinary obliging to her. She asked me one day from whence came, and how long I had been there? For she believed, as said, I had never been brought up to be a servant: I told her I came from Skyraskin, and that I had always lived with my father and mother, till I unhappily married against their consent, and so I came away from them by reason of the miserable life I lived with them upon that account. She then required of me where my husband was? I told her exactly the truth of your going away and leaving me; and how doubtful I was whether you were dead or alive. Said she, You are not with bairn, are you? I then fell a crying, and told her that was my great unhappiness. Well, said she, here is a providence in all this; if you will follow my advice, I will put you into a way that shall make you happy as long as you live. I gave her many thanks, and told her she could command me in what she pleased; for I had that confidence in her, that she would not advise me to do anything that was dishonest; for I would rather die than do a dishonest thing, to whatever necessity I was reduced. She told me she was very glad I was in that mind: and therefore, said she, I will tell you what the businels is, which you must

be sure to keep as a secret, whether you accept of it or not. I faithfully promised I would. Whereupon she told me, that the husband of a gentlewoman of her acquaintance was possessed of a good estate, a good part of which would be lost to the family upon his decease, for want of an heir; at the same time telling me, that if I would be ruled by her, I should not only be provided for as long as I lived, but my child should become the heir of a plentiful estate. With many thanks I told her, the proposal was too much for my advantage, and especially for my child's, to be refused; and therefore I should entirely give up myself to her conduct, and be directed by her therein. The gentlewoman was very well pleased with my answer, which she further testified by giving me a guinea. I then told her, that I must leave it to her to get my present mistress to be willing to part with me. As to that, said she, I know your mistress so well, that I can do any thing with her, and therefore leave that entirely to me. And she so effectually prevailed with my mistress, that my mistress told me the next day, that her kinswoman had a great mind to have me wait upon her; and she knowing it would be more for my advantage, was willing upon that account to part with me. I gave her many thanks for her kindness. And the gentlewoman hiring a horse for me, away I went with her to Inverness, where I was put into a very genteel garb, and went with her to the lady.

When I came thither, my conductress went into a withdrawing room, with the lady, and having discoursed with her about half an hour, they both came out to me; and the lady looking very earnestly upon me, asked me how long I had to reckon. I told her ladyship I was but a young reckoner, this being my first; but according to the best computation I could make, I had four months to reckon: that's very well, said she, and will suit with the time I have spoke of. And this gentlewoman tells me you are willing to part with the child, you go with, to me, without ever owning him again. Yes, Madam: said I: and thereupon she put twenty guineas into my hand, and told me she would be a friend to me as long as I lived: and added, that I should receive directions from her, from time to time, how to order myself.

This gentlewoman I then understood was a midwife, a

whose house I was to lodge privately ; and the lady having before given out she was with child, her belly was made to grow big, in proportion to mine ; for as mine increased naturally, so hers did the like by artificial means. The husband in the mean time being overjoyed with the hopes of having an heir to his estate.

For four months, which was the time I had to reckon, I kept me pretty much in private, but had all the attendance, and every thing else I desired ; having nothing to do but to learn all that carriage and breeding which was necessary for a young gentlewoman : having the midwife's daughter for my governess, who could do all manner of work that could be learnt, and play excellent well on the music, which I learned of her.

And now the time of my delivery being come, the lady had immediate notice of it by the midwife, and accordingly put herself in such a condition ; and I being delivered by the daughter, which was also her deputy, she presently wrapped up my child, and carried it privately to her mother, who putting it with the same privacy into the bed, caused the lady to counterfeit those strong cries and throes which usually are the forerunners of a child's birth, and then it was taken again from her, and was so well managed, there was no mistrust, and it being a brave boy, created no small joy to the husband, and as much grief to the brother, who was inwardly vexed to find the means he had used to procure barrenness, succeeded no better. So that in three months after, finding all hopes of enjoying the estate was gone, he took shipping for Holland, and from thence went into Italy to travel.

For my own part, I was so well looked after, that I wanted for nothing, and in a month's time I went to wait upon the lady, who received me very tenderly, embracing me in arms, and telling me she was glad that ever she saw me, that she should always treat me with the same affection and regard as if I was her own sister. And then shewed me the child, which was a brave boy indeed, and very richly dressed. I took it in my arms, and kissed, and gave it to the nurse again with an English crown piece. The lady, while the nurse was there, called me niece, which was the reason I gave the nurse a crown. For the lady had told me,

that she had a sister that had a daughter that had been at Edinburgh, and died there, which none of her relations had seen since she was a child, and she would so order the matter, that I should pass for her, since if her sister owned me, none could know any thing to the contrary. And therefore I was ordered by her to go to her with a letter, and I did so accordingly, for she owns me for her daughter, and the lady for her niece. This adopted mother of mine is a gentlewoman that lives at Brechin where you found me, or rather where I found you, and prevented you from marrying an inn-keeper's daughter. And ever since, I have been sometimes at Brechin, and sometimes at Inverness; at both which places I am still at home.

My mother (for so I call Mrs. Goydone, who lives at Brechin) has an estate of about 500*l.* per annum Sterling her sister, the lady Murray, allows her 50*l.* sterling upon my account: so that I am absolutely one of the family there and she gives me 50*l.* sterling besides. So that I think you have run yourself into no inconvenience by marrying me. And this is the reason of the change you find in me now from what I was, when you left me at Ardnaglas.

And now, if you are minded to give over rambling, and live with me contentedly, we may live happily together, and need not envy any person in the kingdom.

Here my wife made an end of her story, in which I could not but grieve with her, for her sufferings in the first part, and rejoice with her for her good fortune in the last. But I was extremely surprised to hear that the rogues that had so bad me, and taken away my money and mantle, and left me bound in the wood, had been so met with afterwards, and hanged for those very things which they took away from me, though I knew nothing of it: and I was glad to hear that my foster-father had my mantle again, and that he did not know that I took it away. But I said nothing of all this to my wife.

After she had ended her narrative, and we had lain some time, she asked me if I would not now give her a relation of my travels, and how I went away from Ardnaglas? I told her it was time to go to sleep now; and that we should have time enough for that another night. To which she agreed.

and so, after having once more renewed our conjugal rites,
we both fell asleep, and waked not till the morning.

*Thus fortune's fav'rite I still remain,
And whre'er loses I am sure to gain.
Poor Douglas had her expectation crost,
And both her money and her husband lost.
But that I did what's right all must confess,
In marrying of my pretty Shepherdess.
But tho' poor Douglas was by her beguil'd,
She lost not all because she got a child;
And had in getting it many a night of pleasure,
And if she has Jenny's luck it may prove a treasure.*

C H A P. VIII.

He goes with his wife to Inverness, and by the way gives her a sham relation of his travels. They are well received at Sir Alexander Murray's; he finds out a way to lie with his lady unknown to herself till afterwards: and how he came off. He pretends to be the Queen's receiver, and leaves his wife under that pretence, to go a rambling. He is robbed by a gang of highwaymen, and enters himself into their society.

THIS next day we staid and dined at Badenoch, with those that had graced our wedding the day before: and in the afternoon went on our way toward Inverness, and by that night at Bean-castle: but as we rid along, my wife put me upon giving her the history of my travels, in requital for the relation she had given me of hers. But I could not so readily do it as she; for she had nothing to do but to tell the truth: whereas I was to tack together a parcel of lies, to make it seem the more plausible: for she being very virtuous and chaste, I was ashamed to let her know what a rogue I had been. And the better to excuse myself, I told her, I could not tell how to give her a relation of what began so unhappily, as with my parting from her, it would so much renew my grief for such a barbarous action. I told her, however, that when I went from Ardnaglas, I took the fine

mantle that I was found in, with what gold I found there; and also how I lost it; which justified the dying words of the criminals that robbed me, whom indeed they left bound in a wood; then I told her of my getting loose, and how I lay in a barn where the gypsies came, and how I was a while among them; then I told her that a gentleman taking a fancy to me, took me into his service; and having found me very honest and faithful, got me to be one of the Queen's receivers; and this, I said, was my present business; and that which occasioned me to tarry at Montrose, where my lady and her daughter fell in love with me; and having promised to marry the daughter, I had some business at Aberdeen, which, when I had dispatched, I came to Brechin, and sent for her, in order to marry her: that she came thither accordingly; and went with me to a cousin of hers, with whom she intended to go and buy some things in order to the wedding next day: when, in the mean time, you very happily sent for me; by which means I got a much better wife, and poor Douglas (for that is her name) lost a good husband.

Having thus finished my relation, my wife seemed very well satisfied with it, but told me, that since I was in the Queen's business, she believed that required my attendance pretty much. I was glad to hear her make that remark; for by that I knew I could have an opportunity when I would to ramble. So I told her I could dispense with it for a few weeks now and then.

At length we came to Inverness, where we were well entertained, and I was made very much on; and had ten guineas presented me by the lady; who was indeed a very charming person, and every way accomplished, insomuch that I did not doubt, but if I could be but her bedfellow, I could make her a child of her own, without being beholden to another for theirs. But how to bring this matter about, I knew not: for I was not well enough acquainted with the house to know how the land lay. However, upon enquiry, I found that the old gentleman, her husband, lay in a bed by himself; and when he found in himself a desire of embracing his wife, he would then go to his wife's bed. Upon this I desired my wife to shew me the house, which I pretest

ed mightily to admire : and therefore was willing to see all the several apartments, by which means I knew which was the old gentleman's apartment, and which was his wife's : and I found that we all three lay upon one floor ; that is to say, the old gentleman's, his wife's, and the chamber wherein my wife and I lay ; I perceived also that the lady's chamber was in the center, between her husband's and ours where we lay.

These observations being made, I resolved the first opportunity, when my wife was asleep, to make a visit to the lady's chamber, and give her a cast of my office ; which I did without being discovered by my wife, tho' not by the lady. When I had accomplished my desires, the next day, as soon as I was up, I told my wife, my business now called me away ; but I would make but a short stay abroad, for I should never be at home but in her arms : nor, indeed, could I be anywhere happier, for though my evil inclinations prompted me to desire change, yet I could never change for a better : it was her unhappiness to fall into the hands of so bad a husband ; and my unhappiness not to be contented with so charming a wife. She told me she would be glad of my longer stay with her, either there, or where I pleased ; but she would not have me neglect my business ; for having taken a trust upon me, I ought to discharge it faithfully. I was once about to go away before our lady aunt (for so we called her) wat got up, but I was afraid that might occasion some discourse between my wife and her, to my disadvantage ; besides I had a mind to know what the old gentleman said to her, after he parted with me ; and therefore I resolved to wait her rising. When she was up, and came down, I thanked her for all the civilities I had received from her since I came thither ; and told her that my business called me away for a time, but that I would leave my wife there. Whereupon she asked me to take a turn in the garden, which I readily accepted : when we came there, she told me she was extremely troubled at my unhappy mistake last night, and asked me whether my wife knew or mistrusted any thing about it ?

I told her, not in the least, and then gave her a relation of what happened, as before related ; and desired she would not suggest any thing to my wife about it, who had no man.

her of mistrust : she told me, I need not give her any such caution ; for the regard she had to her own reputation and repose, was a sufficient motive for her silence. I desired to know what the old gentleman said concerning his meeting me at his chamber-door : Says she, he told me, that you having been at the vault, had mistaken his chamber for your own ; but seemed not to have any suspicion of your having been with me : insomuch, when I was for taking my leave of her, she desired me to dire first, and take my leave of her husband, which I did accordingly.

I had furnished myself, at Inverness, with a very good fuzee, a pair of extraordinary pocket pistols, with a very good basket-hilted sword, and a dirk hanging by my side, and every way completely armed, so that I was resolved upon adventures when they offered fairly, that I might make good the title I had given myself of receiver general ; and to this end I went out upon the road, tho' I had then no occasion for money, but because my inclination led me that way. And because I believed there would be more business in the Lowlands than in the Highlands, I resolved to go thither.

The first day I met with nothing remarkable, which made me the next morning bend my course for Edinburgh, resolving to see the chief city in the kingdom. But, travelling between Tuilibardin and Dunblain, there passed by me three persons very well mounted, and a little after, at a good distance behind me, three more ; but coming down to the bottom of a hill, I perceived the three that were before me to face about, and stand still ; and then looking back, I saw the three that were behind me just come up to me, so that I saw there was now no escaping : those before me coming close up to me, bid me deliver my money, or I was a dead man. Whereupon with a smiling countenance, gentlemen, said I, what I have is at your service, for I am bound to be kind to my brethren, being one of the same profession myself ; and am very willing to be one of your society. Upon this they all came up close to me, and fell to examine my pockets, where they found about 15 l. Sterling ; which I told them, to make myself the more considerable, I had taken a little before as a booty ; which they indeed believed : and so we rode together to an inn. But how I was admitted into

their society, the articles that I swore to, upon my admission, the several villanies that I afterwards acted, and the various adventures that I made, with the different successes of them, shall be reserved for the second part of my life; which, if it meets with a kind acceptance, shall quickly see the light.

T H E
S C O T S R O G U E:
OR, THE
LIFE AND ACTIONS
OF
DONALD MACDONALD,
A Highland Scot.

P A R T II.

Relating his Introduction into the Society of Highwaymen, the Robberies he committed amongst them; and how he was made Captain of the Gang. His being Taken, Tried and Condemned at Edinburgh: His being Pardoned, and sent into the King's Service: His account of the Scots Military Discipline, and the Exercise of the Long-Goon, &c. Intermixt with the rest of his Love Intrigues, and Debaucheries, with an account of his Extraordinary Wit and Courage in all his Villanies and Adventures.

*By sin and vice still more and more betrayed,
See here the further progress he has made,
In wicked ways: which tho' with so much art
He carries on at last will make him smart;
For though at first sin's sweets we only feel,
Its pois'nows sting still follows at the heel.*

C H A P. I.

Relating his introduction into the society of thieves; his first adventure among them, upon a country squire; and how he outwitted both the parson, the clerk and his wife; with whom he purchased a night's lodging against her own knowledge.

BEING thus way laid and trepanned by a parcel of robbers, and under the promise of becoming a new member of their society, being carried along with them to an adjoining inn (as I have related in the conclusion of the first part of my adventures) when the bountiful glasses had gone plentifully round; the liquor had softened the distance and asperity of our tempers, and every one seemed to have turned down sufficient blood into his veins, so as now to have some quantity to spare, and spend in fresh engagements; the captain of the dark cabal having first had the civility to move my health round the table, pursued his liberality in such language as this: Friend, says he, do not imagine, though our profession pass under a general disrepute, and our course of life be esteemed scandalous and disgraceful by the severer and more phanatical part of mankind, that we have no order and decorum observed in our republic; on the contrary, if you intend to share in the advantages of our body politic, there are several decrees and orders to which we must in the first place require your subscription; to which if you scruple not to take an oath, then in reality may you be reckoned one of our number, and may expect that all your days shall be crowned with the greatest happiness, affluence, and satisfaction: but if through the appearing severity of the orders imposed, you should have the hardiness to stand off and withhold to pay your subscription; it is, says he, sirrah, (here cocking his pistol, and clapping it cross the table, directly across my breast) must be our own security, dispatch you out of our company.—Begging your worship's generous pardon, noble captain, says I, pray if a man may be so bold, what are those orders and commands which must initiate me into your society? For as our country proverb has it, 'Tis but reason gude

we ken the dyks ere we tuk it ; and 'tis no seeming difficulty, or the hardness of conditions, which shall make me dispute the authority of your commands.

Upon this, a large parchment scroll was produced, containing the dark foundations of their hellish commonwealth, and wherein all the orders of their society were decyphered ; which the captain delivering to the muckle priest of their fraternity, he ascending a tripod, began *viv^e voce* to repeat the important contents of the paper . The chief of which were as follows :

1. Ready obedience and non resistance to the captain, in all commands, how unreasonable soever.
2. He that starts at a case of conscience, or boggles at any difficulties upon the account of religion, shall be pistoled to death.
3. He that spares any man's life where there is mercy in the wind, out of t' a canting, whining principle called *mercy*, shall infallibly swing at the next tree that offers.
4. That every member of the society should contribute his utmost in any encounter or engagement.
5. That none presume to absent himself from the general meetings, the particulars of which the captain shall appoint.
6. Rather to suffer the utmost torments, or even death itself, than to be squeezed into any confession disadvantageous to the company.
7. Whoever is catched saying his prayers, or with any godly books about him, that we take him in a good mood, shall be dispatched out of hand.
8. Never decline engaging a company of men, so long as the adversaries do not exceed our number.
9. To conceal any or with-hold no part of a booty from the rest of the company.
10. To give relief and assistance to one another under imprisonment, or any other calamity.
11. That if upon any account we are desired to leave the company, horse, pistols, and boots should be surrendered to the captain, and that as to our brethren we should for ever hold our peace.

In short, the orders being read over, and having declared myself ready to subscribe, and become their humble servant

in the least punctilio, reserving however to myself the freedom in the mean time of interpreting each command after my particular way or according as the variety of occasions should present. (For since the several orders of religionists among us do not scruple to take refuge in the double meaning and ambidexter of an oath, why should men of profession make bones of indulging ourselves the same liberty and unconfinement?) When I had set my hand to the paper, (for though I say it, I might have learnt to draw up articles if I had pleased, nay, and if my genius would have permitted it, to have cast up accompts too) I say, so soon as I had subscribed the orders of the society, the captain thought convenient that we should all disband the inn for the entertainments of the road; and accordingly having discharged the reckoning, and having first taken horse, we set out in pursuit of game upon the king's high-way, where we were no sooner arrived, but having travelled on forward to a little village called Levin Castle, our number being by the captain's orders dispersed into three companies, and myself and my fellow murderer being sent the foremost of the caravan.

When we were got as far out of the village as a country carrier's horses use to out skip their master, or as a pocket drained apprentice who hath bilked a hackney-coach man for the most part scampers, before he dares look behind him; when to the great exultation of our decimating inclinations, we beheld a country squire trotting upon the tuff, and erected in as much unconcernedness and slate, as if there had been no mischief near him: for my part, I was as much transported with the discovery, as if I had found out the *perpetual motion*, or arrived within two degrees of the *philosopher's stone*: for I considered with myself, here is a fair opportunity of demonstrating my valour, and of shewing my new companion what a proficient I am in the science of the road: My dear brother, says I, be so kind as to suffer me to untower yonder woodcock, and to present you with his feathers; do you saunter leisurely and unconcernedly upon the pace, whilst I give myself the satisfaction of his blood or furniture. The matter was agreed upon, and away I rode in pursuit of preferment; till at length having strained up to my predecessor's horse heels, and saluting him with *A good*

day to you, sir; pray how far do you design to travel this road? My intentions, says he, are for Dunkel; for having lately married a lady of great reputation, I intend to furnish myself with all things necessary and agreeable to her quality, and in short not unworthy of my own: for you must know, sir, I am descended from no ordinary lineage, my great grandfather being reckoned in the list of the nobles, and I myself, you see, am not contemptibly accounted. Sir, I am glad, says I, to hear you are going to Dunkel; for my concerns at present, carry me to the same place too, and since I see you are well armed against accidents that may happen, I am extremely glad that I have stumbled upon your company: for these ways I am told are dangerous to travellers; and it is not safe journeying these distant lanes alone; which was the reason that I took the boldness to make up into your discourse: for having at present a considerable sum of money about me, and perceiving by your garb that you were a gentleman well descended, I thought it would be safer to travel in body, than alone and by ourselves; and this was the reason, sir, why I presumed to make up into your company. As to the rogues, says he, pray never be disturbed about them; I wish they would attempt any exploits upon me; I believe I should give them reason to repent their hardness; I am furnished you see here, sir, with two trusty pistols and I can immediately put them in a vein for execution; I almost long to have an opportunity of engaging the rascals, that you might see how safe you are in my company. Perhaps, says he, you are not accustomed to these conflicts upon the road, but for my part I have been trained up to it, as I may say, from a child; and I have been almost from the days of my infancy a traveller; and am now too well versed in them to be afraid of their surprises. Well said I, it is happy for me that I have so well mettled a shoulder-shield as you are, though I believe I should be found to be no starter neither. At last having drawn out my banger to put my design in execution, and making up to him with an air of the greatest severity and displeasure, guarding his horse's head, I gave him so surly and unceremonious a gash in the tip of his left shoulder, as if I had been going to knock down an ox at a stroke, or dispatch some common monster that infested

the country; which made him partly out of pain, and partly out of apprehension of what was to succeed, to roar out to that excess, as if he would have alarmed the whole country into his quarrel; which I apprehending he rather did with that design, than out of any intolerable grievance in the wound, to requite his self-defending inclination as well as I could, I immediately drew forth a charged pistol I had about me, and setting it to his breast, sirrah, says I, without dewr or ceremony deliver up your money. I am a robber, you dog, a master of the road; if you have any mind to redeem your life at the expence of your money, come, make haste and surrender it; otherwise you may expect to drop upon the spot: my country 'squire's complexion having undergone a sudden change, and observing himself now not to be above a finger's breadth from death, he began to imagine that if he were not dispatchful, I might take occasion to let fly upon his mortality, and to deprive his young lady of quality of her extraordinary coxcomb, out of spite to his bride; and being resolved not to humour her in so trifling a concern as the loss of his life, he immediately with ready hand produces a large purse, stuffed with an agreeable ductile kind of metal called gold, which in a murmuring penitent tone he delivered: nay, hold, says I, you know, monkey of quality, you have taken the liberty to scatter many obloquious things upon the lords of the road, and to threaten that you would come even with them for some freedom of old: now, except you dismount your horse hide out of hand, and cry penitence to all the honourable and victorious fraternity, it is not your presents of gold that shall protect your person; for honour, sirrah, is dearer to a man of honour, than his life. Well, I am willing, says he, in a cowardly whining tone, to purchase your favour and reconciliation at any rate whatsoever; and if you will be pleased to spare my life, to recant whatsoever I have said to the disadvantage of your companions; for in earnest, I only spoke it out of a vanity of bravery, and thinking to recommend myself to your good opinion. Being extremely disgusted at his nauseous submissions, I could not but look upon him with the veriest contempt, and therefore giving him a hearty remembrancer on the middle part of his back, together with a charge to have a purse of double va-

lue at my service upon his return : almost ashamed of my own conquests, I forsook the flourishing impertinent, and returned to my companion to report the good tidings : meeting my brother upon the trot, I began to examine the spoils that I had gathered in the late terrible engagement, and finding the money to amount to 100 guineas, I could not but extremely congratulate my good destiny : however I was unwilling to own what a sorry pusillanimous wretch was the proprietor, and therefore altering my story as best suited to my advantage, I pretended to my companion that the purse had been the dispute of a very hazardous conflict, and that it was hard to find a gentleman trained up to so much courage : however, says I, I had the fortune to come off with an entire skin, though I question whether my adversary will carry his arm to his journey's end. My brother in inquiry was so transported with the prize, that he was not over solicitous to hear the circumstances of the encounter, and therefore, without more ceremony, we rode back to the old inn where the captain had appointed the assignation the same evening, where being arrived, without hearing of either of our other companions (for it seems they had been so politic as to take different roads), we immediately set upon relieving our late fatigues, with a short whet of the creature, and a fresh collation of nappy ale. Thus as we were driving away the cares of conscience and apprehension, and softening the late difficulties of our hazardous engagement, happening to cast my eye through an accidental cranny of the chamber-door, I observed a man in gray, and a very fine gentlewoman discoursing it with great earnestness in the adjoining chamber : *This night, says she, will be very proper to renew our pleasures. You know my husband's custom when any burials happen, is to get a glass of the sensitive too much in his head : this night therefore we may conclude he will run beside the canonical cushion. Now it will be your business when you are in the ale-house, to take care of him, and if he should happen to be over-loaded, to conduct him home, resolve therefore to detain him till after ten in the evening, I will order matters so, that I will be gone to bed, and my husband shall be disposed of to a different chamber, so that we shall have the fairer opportunity to pursue our pastimes.*

Madam, returned the man in gray, I shall endeavour to serve you upon all occasions, and punctually obey your very acceptable commands. So having drank a glass or two by way of health to their undertaking, they abandoned the room, and took several streets. Thus having luckily overheard all the amorous conference, and being fired with an extraordinary passion for the unknown gentlewoman's incomparable beauty, I bent my wits all the ways I could possibly devise to enquire out the two persons who had made the assignation; and leaving the room, as I told my companion, for the convenience of the vault, I took the maid of the inn aside, and asked her carelessly, who that lady was that was just gone out of the house. Her name she told me, was madam Dalkeith, and that man in gray with her was the clerk of the parish, and her husband the parson that oversaw the same: she told me over and above, that there was to be a great burying the same day in town; and that in the evening, in all likelihood. I might have the satisfaction of seeing and discoursing with the minister himself, it being his practice upon such occasions, when the ceremony was over, to come in company with the clerk, and to refresh himself till pretty late in the evening. When the girl was concluding the last sentence of her discourse, we heard a company of four or five come riding up with great briskness, and make a stop at the inn; which looking out, I observed to be the captain and his companions; breaking off my dialogue with the chamber-maid, I immediately went out and saluted the captain with the rest of his brotherhood, and with my companion so called in a particular sense, we took a private room to report the late successes of our victorious adventures, and to concert about matters of the highest consequence: in the first place, with great officiousness, I produced my golden purse, relating the whole engagement, though not wholly as it happened: upon which the captain being struck with delightful astonishment at the quantity of the spoils, and more with the heightning circumstances I superadded to the relation, embraced me in his arms, and fell to dividing the conquest into several portions, of which I think I got the largest share; after which the captain and the man that attended his company, told us they robbed a country farmer

between Kintoll and Tullibardin, of the sum of ten pounds, which they produced in open view, and that they were sorry upon second thoughts, that they did not dispatch him; because he seemed to be upon the latter part of his journey, and they imagined he would take up his quarters at Dunblain that night; so that if he should happen to make any sedulous enquiry after them, they might be found out and discovered: I encouraged the captain to lay aside all such thoughts, telling him that fortune was always generous to the bold, that it was but folly to anticipate misfortunes to come, and that in all probability, the country farmer would be so glad that he carried off his carcase that he would never have the heart or boldness to make a farther enquiry; so having washed down those melancholy apprehensions with nappy stingo, and having the satisfaction to see myself more hardy and better steel'd than the captain himself, we presently perceived ourselves as jovial and unapprehensive as a parcel of beggars: whereupon one of our company, a courageous daring fellow, when he began to feel the power and inspiration of the bottle, to drive our rising spirits to the utmost height of extravagance and bravery, introduced a merry catch, which he sung in commemoration of the robbers profession:

Whilst every blind subject of every blind nation,
Submit to the general curse of the creation,
And to get themselves barley bread, whip and lobcouse
Condescend like tame slaves to the sweat of their brows,
For a dinner at noon, and a supper at night,
And to stuff with good sterlinc (for us) your large purses,
Works himself, supple villain! as hard as his horses.
WE ROBBERS, a far more illuminated race,
Both at ease and in plenty, lisd's stormy seas past.
What perhaps the poor hind has cost as many winters
To rake up, as would run out his son Jack's indentures,
We lug off in less than a couple of ventures.
Of what the squire, by being born, is proprietor grown
By his mother's hard labour, though not by his own,
When my young master ventures to take the fresh air,
And rides out to his doxies, or some country fair,

Opportunely we seize him, and leave him as bare,
As perhaps his great grandfather's ancestors were.
Then flying the pert saucy inquisitives enpassant,
For our ease we repair to some bye inn adjacent,
Where in brimmers of Claret our spirits we fire,
And our souls for fresh game and adventures inspire.

By the time that the musical predator had finished his roundelay in honour of the memory of our inordinate trade, and every consenting brother sinner had given his applause in an universal hum, the frowning skies began to darken, and night drew on apace; which put me in mind of the assignation the parson's wife had lately made with the clerk of the parish; which I had a great inclination to disappoint if I could, and to conjure myself for once into the clerk's character: observing therefore that the greatest part of our illegitimate company were so far sunk in their cups, that they were unable to dog a man in the pursuit of such an intrigue, or even to observe, or at least remember my absence: going to look upon the wall, I took the boldness to abandon their scurrilous company, and went to sport myself with greater freedom in the conversation of the maids; and passing through the common room into the kitchen, I observed the parson and clerk very evangelically topping it over a quart pot of ale; so when I had made Abigail my friend, by feeding her with an half-crown piece in the hand, and secured her fidelity and assistance on all occasions intervening, as also enquired of her with great exactness the particular place of the fuddle cap's residence, the next advance of my intrigue was, to wind myself handsomely into the company of the dark vested relatives; Pretty maid, says I, (aloud that they might hear me) did you hear the strange news which is lately come out? What is that pray, says she, I have not heard a word of it? - Why, it is confidently reported in our freshest and more authentic advices from Barcelona, that the pope is lately turned presbyterian parson, and he had turned St. Peter's church into a presbyterian meeting-house. What is that pray, sir? says the ecclesiastical liquor sucker, and started up as fierce as if he had been going to divide a text, or to say a grace over a pudding, or collation of tithe eggs. Why, it is reported in our let-

ters to a friend from Barcelona, that the pope has taken upon him the character of your profession, and turned St. Peter's church into the form of a meeting-house. Well but, sir, pray let us hear the whole circumstances of the history; this is the strangest and the best news I ever heard in all my life: well, my most humble service to you: the pope turned minister and non-conformist too! Well, the certain preface of the overthrow of Babylon; take my word for it, antichrist has not long to reign. Well, to morrow morning, says I, I do not know byt I may procure you the private letter which gives this account. Verily, I shall be most everlastingly obliged to you; the subtle clerk cried *amen* to each punctilio of the relation, and wished that the history might prove true. Why the relation is as infallible as the pope pretends to be, and we shall presently see a quite different face of affairs. Having thus by my wheedling canting, and pleasant crotchetts, insinuated myself into the old gentleman's inclinations, the next step of my adventure was to drink down the clerk; and to out-wit, as I may say, the fellow that out witted: committing it therefore to the clerk to see to the inebriation of his spiritual master's sermon pan, the next thing I went about was to over reach, if I could, the spiritual crackold-maker: after therefore we had taken down half a dozen quarts of barley, which I foresaw for my good news would be the anti-prelate's treat, I told the gentleman, if he thought fit, I had a glass of wine at his service: I believe he had no more power not to accept the proposal, than he had to turn away a well flushed couple that were to be married, though for want of a publication of the bands of matrimony: making therefore as many hums and ha's as a young woman would do ere she parts with her virginity; I am afraid, sir, says he, it may put you to too great expences; but—Abigail—In short the proposal being called for, and several glasses having gone round, the enlivened parson began to talk as if he had never heard a syllable of either Peter or Paul; and the clerk, who was his echo upon other occasions, did not fail to answer him with some hopefulness in this particular; and I am apt to think the parson's skill will prove the harder of the two: in short, the other bottle being called for, and having circulated round, the old retainer to the cassock, and the

young Nellion in design, began to use their tongues at the rate that a quaker manages a snuff box, or a beau a tobacco-pipe; particularly, the clerk became very drunk, insomuch that in the extravagant intervals of his discourse, he could scarcely withhold from twitting the parson; nay, so much impudence had he in conclusion, as to tell his master that both he and all his house were entirely at his devotion, and that he could noose him in a string if he had a mind to it; in short he did little less than acquaint him that all the members of his family were of his begetting, and that unless he would be very civil, he would play him a trick. Why, John, what's the matter now? cries the unadulterated sacerdotal cuckold, methinks you begin to advance into your altitudes; is this all the recompence and satisfaction you return me for the honour of conversing with me? In short, the parson having turned off the discourse with several shreds of Latin sentences, as *Nemo mortalium omnibus horis sapit, and quid non ebrietus?* and several quotations of authors, as seemed to make it clear that John was condemned by the commentators in this particular. Having privately moved to the parson, that John should be put to bed, as being unfit to keep us company any longer, and having without much importunity obtained his consent, and discoursed the matter with the maid, John being now not in a condition to reject any proposal, I took him lovingly by the arm, and conducted him into his apartment. The coast being now clear, I returned to my spiritual associate, for the coronation of this interview, and having now replenished him with as much liquid measure as his belly would well hold, and not without the maid's knowledge (all the rest being gone to bed) I dressed myself in the clerk's clothes, all being dark and silent, for the accomplishment of my undertaking, I prevailed with the agreeable doctor to break up the session, telling him I cared not if I took the trouble to accompany him to his lodging. Seeing therefore that he had neither so much understanding left, as either to reject or comply with me, I presumed to take him by the arm, and to lead him out into the street; and being arrived, by the maid's directions at the canonical dome, I took the liberty to knock for admittance; whereupon the servant rose and opened the door, and conducted us in the dark thro' the entry (as I sup-

pose by her mistress's directions) and turning her master into a chamber, she told me I might ly in the parlour that night : To which being led the way (for tho' I confess I was the clerk, yet I might very easily be supposed to be so drunk, in such company, as-to have forgot a passage which I had travelled so often) when I arrived at madam's bed, it seems she lay with such expectation, that she immediately saluted me in the most engaging expressions : Come, my dear, says she, what made you delay your bliss by tarrying so long in the ale-house ? I suppose his business might have been dispatched a long while ere this ? As she talked, I cried hush, to make her believe I was apprehensive of the old gentleman ; though indeed I was afraid of letting her hear my voice. However, to secure the main chance, being got between the sheets, I fell a bussing her lips with that extrafy and amorous violence, that in return of the civility she unbarred her lovely neck of the incumbrances of her smock, and laid so soft and panting a pair of globes over my entranced bosom, that methought new life and vigour started into my veins ; my spirits danced like gun-powder, and every artery in my composition seemed erected for the undertaking : In short, from each swelling sigh which she discharged from her heaving nipples against my beating heart, my flame gathered air and breath, and my passion seemed to swell to the greater transport ; so that for fear of performing the amorous office before the time, I immediately embraced her soft and yielding body within my arms, and fell to the conflict with that eagerness, that to keep pace with me, gentle nymph ! she was forced to run herself almost out of breath : being therefore willing to stay for the satisfaction of her company, I was prevailed upon to intermit the reiteration of our enjoyment : feeling therefore from the reporting pulses of her breasts that she was furnished with sufficient breath to ride out the other career, I forthwith put my foot in the stirrup, and away for fresh discoveries : thus we continued to renew our satisfaction several times ; and, indeed, what put me upon making the utmost boast of my strength, was to prevent her from starting several intervals of discourse ; by which means I foresaw my iutrigue would be discovered ; and my soft combatant diverted into new jealousies and suspicions : having therefore given the ut-

most demonstration of my abilities, and exhausted my yielding queen of the furniture of the greatest part of her concupiscence, laying my hairy cheek on the downy pillows of her heavy and subsiding couple of warm bubbles, to prevent needless discourse, fell as miraculously asleep, as if I had taken a pretty sufficient quantity of *Opium*, which she perceiving, laid her arm over my reclining neck, and fell a dreaming over the late conflict of our affections : however, perceiving that it would be dangerous for me to close my eyes, lest I should happen to oversleep myself the next morning, I took care to be dog drowsy till the cock took the opportunity to repeat the approaching arrival of day. When my princess being very seasonably upon the snore, softly disengaging myself from the implication of her entrancing embraces, with what little noise I could I slipt to the chamber-door, where *indueing* the clerk's habit only with that curiosity, that it would stick about me, I abandoned the room, and fell a groping the way to some convenient outlet ; when, as I came out of the parlour, happening to take the wrong course, my foot gaye a surly salute to a resounding piggyn of water, which propagated my mistake through every room of the house, and rung such a noisy peal in the drunken parson's ears, that I was afraid he would mistake it for the bell for morning prayers ; nay, moreover, as I struck the vocal machine with my toe, my body unfortunately happening not to be placed *in equilibrio*, I unhappily inclined with both my arms into the vessel, and slipping in above the elbows, examined the bottom of the ill-contrived utensil's capacity ; by this means the clerk's arms became dropping wet, and as I offered to make backward to the other side of the house, the water trickled from the consecrated doublet in that abundance, that a blind man might have easily followed by the noise : however, the parson's last night's debauch had given so supotiferous an inclination to his head, that if the house had been falling it had been much at one ; and my fair bed fellow was so overcharged with the magic pills I had given her, that she slept as heartily as a swallow in December ; so taking fresh heart from my late misfortunes, and groping on the other end of the edifice, (for I thought it somewhat prudent to get as far off from the piggyn florehouse as I could) examining

the wall along, at last I arrived at a truckle bed, which I now concluded for all my villanies was most undoubtedly the parson's; I hearkened with great earnestness of ears and curiosity, if I could distinguish his particular snoze: but observing that the returns of breath were more gentle, and rather of one that seemed to feed upon water-gruel than the commodities, I made up to it with greater courage, concluding it to be the apartment of the maid; so that with little circumstance having waked her, and acquainted her with my errand; who's that, says she, John? I left the key purposely in the door, that you might the better get out. Well, says I, if you did, somebody or other has removed it: With that I fell upon her warm lips with that eagerness and passionate hunger, that she wretched to disentangle herself from my encircling arms, and finding that she could have no other refuge from the persecution of my embraces, than by putting on her clothes, she slipt her petticoat over her shoulders, and kindly attended me to the door, where endeavouring to sustain her for a more curious examination of her specifical little circumstances, she proyed so impatient under the perusal, that, turning the key, she immediately thrust me out of the house, which I confess I was the rather contented to submit to, because I felt an unwholesome flatulent rise from the unperfumed region of her arm-pits; so that now having given the last stroke to my adventure, I thought I had accomplished all my inclination; and therefore having for a while had the patience at the door to undergo the sharp invasion of the morning air, which I felt after my night's revels, created me a stomach, when the first streaks of day break began to start from the east, and the guiding rays of Phœbus shewed me back to the inn, having in the first place knockt up Abigail, and sauntered a while up and down the house, when I had put off the clayl's habiliments, and reassumed my own, I sat me down by the fire side, where Abigail having provided me a refreshing morning posset, we toasted our mugs most egregiously: and she without asking any questions, went to return the clerk's upper garment into the situation of his vest; who, it seemt, sleeping profoundly, all the adventure was accomplished. the parson's cuckoldom renewed, the clerk supplanted, and I myself the happy instrument of all thus,

*Thus vices as it were are hung on chains,
As he that slides, fresh speed from motion gains;
One lawless action draws another on;
The farther, still, in sin, we faster run;
Yet tho' the country squire be plum'd and drain'd,
And a young heir the soaking priest have gain'd,
Fresh plots and robberies shall my thoughts engage;
For youth's gay itch is heal'd by wiser age.*

C H A P. II.

He proceeds to give an account of robbing two country-men, and how: He goes out with the captain and his gang, and sets upon the lord viscount Kil-th's coach, robs it of 350 l. Kills one of his gentlemen, they are taken at Edinburgh, and committed prisoners to the tolbooth; his melancholy reflections upon himself while a prisoner there.

AFTER my adventure with the parson's wife, and having refreshed myself with the posset that Abigail had provided for me, I found myself in a condition to gratify my forniciferous senses: But just as I was falling asleep, comes down into the kitchen two rustic travellers, who had lain there that night, and were preparing to go on their journey that morning: Says Abigail to them (for they saw not me who had sat in a nook in the chimney-corner undiscovered) what makes you rise so early this morning? Marry, said he, because I have a great charge of money about me; and I know there's a great many false loons in the world; but they are generally such as sit up late at night, and lie long a-bed in the morning, and that's the best time for me to travel in; for then I shall be shut of them, and ife ne care for their company, that's true too. And truly, said the maid, I think you are in the right of it, especially if you carry any great sum. Why, said he, I have a hundred pounds Scots, and that's too much to leese. I was very glad to hear he was so well stored; and so took care to keep out of sight, till he was gone into the stable; and then I got up stairs, and acquainted our captain what I had heard, and he thereupon

ordered one of our company and myself to go after him, which we accordingly did ; and coming up with them, I asked them which way they were bound ? they answered toward Stirling : I told them so were we, and would be glad of their company. But I perceived they were not very fond of ours : for they told us, their horses were dull, and could not go so fast as ours : I told them I perceived they were too heavy loaded, but I could easily make their burdens lighter : and so riding up to him that I perceived had the money, I put my pistol to his breast, and told him I would carry his money for him, and so bid him deliver it, or he was a dead man ; upon which the bumkin fell a begging and praying I would do him no hurt, and I should have it ; in the meantime, the other put spurs to his horse, and rid as fast as he could gallop ; but my companion soon overtook him, and having searched him, and took what he had, (which was but 20 l. Scots) we took his horse's bridle away, bound the man, and set the horse at liberty, and so crossing the country, we went back again to Dunblain and there having met with the captain and the rest of our fraternity, we gave an account of our achievements, and produced our prize, which was shar-ed amongst us.

After we had enjoyed ourselves at our inn the best part of the day, a council was called, wherein the great question of what we were to do next, was debated ; and where it was resolved, that, in imitation of our grand master, the devil, we should all get upon the road, and there see whom we could devour ; accordingly we took horse, and rid out, divided, as we did before, several ways, well armed, and with every man his visor mask to clasp on upon occasion : for besides that those masks kept us from being known, the hideous form struck terror into the hearts of those we assailed ; and when their hearts were filled with fear, their hands grew quickly weak, and so became the easier prey.

In the division that was this day made by our captain, I was selected out to be his companion, which I was very proud of, as having a mind he should be an eye-witness of my prowess. We had not been long in quest of a prize, before we met with a coach and six horses, with three gentlemen riding behind it well armed : Ah ! said I to the captain, had

we but two more of our gang here, here we might have a prize worth the contending for : these gentlemen do not travel without money : True, said the captain, but we want help to manage them. He had no sooner spoke, but I heard some noise behind us, I look'd back and saw our other four companions riding after us ; upon which we made a halt, and let them overtake us : being come up with us, we asked them how they came so soon, and so to follow us : they answered, That having been informed by a country-man that the lord viscount Kil-th was going up to Edinburgh, with a good sum of money ; and knowing you were gone this way, we followed to enable you to make a stand upon them. We were very glad at this lucky meeting ; so we consulted in what manner we should attack them : and it was agreed that I should go first before, and stop the coach, cutting the harness ; and then that two of them should go on each side of the coach, and there keep all quiet, while the rest engaged the three gentlemen that were behind, and having mastered them, should proceed as we saw convenient.

Things being thus concerted, when we were pretty near the coach, I rid up to the postilion, and giving him a good blow on the head, I tumbled him down off his horse on the ground, and cut the horse harness, whilst the rest were as busy in seizing the gentlemen behind ; but the captain, who was willing to be fingering the money, coming to the boot of the coach, and bidding them deliver, lord Kil-th did so immediately ; that is to say, he discharged a blunderbuss full at the captain, which shot him into the shoulder, and another bullet grazed by the side of his neck, and another into his right breast, so that down he tumbled ; upon which I immediately went to his rescue, and got him from under the horse-heels ; and mounted him again : He told me he was much wounded, but he believed not mortally. Being enraged at the mishap which had befallen my captain, I rid up to the coach with my pistol ready cocked, to revenge him ; and thereupon all in the coach immediately cried out for quarters ; at which time the coachman, a huge two-handed fellow, had like to have done my business, coming up upon me unawares ; but having a glimpse of him, I turned about and laid him sprawling immediately : All this while three

gentlemen were engaged with my other three comrades, and fought stoutly, but had certainly been worsted, had I not bid the other look to the coach, and coming up to the stoutest of the three, I gave him such a push thro' the body, as soon made him crop ; which when the other two saw, they surrendered. When this was done, I went up to the coach, and with a greater presence of mind than I thought I had been capable of, said, My lord, you must first surrender your arms, and then we must have your money ; for that's the thing we want ; in order to which I must desire your lordship to come out of the coach ; and then taking his lordship by the hand, I helped him out, and having searched the seats, and found therein three hundred and fifty pounds sterlings, my companions were for searching my lord's pockets and two ladies that were in the coach : But I opposed it, saying, Gentlemen, we have what we expected, pray let's be civil to my lord ; and to these fair ladies : and with much ado persuaded them to let them alone : And so handing them into the coach again, we were just taking our leaves, when my captain (who it seems was mortally wounded) called faintly to tell us he was just a-dying, and that he resigned his place to me : telling the rest, that I was the fittest to succeed him, and then desiring we would take care to carry him off, and bury him privately. He prayed God to forgive him his sins, and so gave an eternal farewell to this lunar world. The captain's death had like to have embroiled us all in a fresh quarrel : for they would have been for revenging his death upon our prisoners ; but I declared myself absolutely against it, telling them, I would protect them to the last drop of my blood ; pleading for them, that what they did, was in their own defence ; that it was we were the aggressors, and not they ; that it was enough we had taken away their money, and that it would be a barbarous cruelty to add murder to robbery. With these words I pretty well pacified them ; and so going to my lord, and wishing him a good journey to Edinburgh, we laid the dead body upon the horse, and so went off with the booty.

The first thing we did (after we had left the coach) was to dispose of the body of our defunct captain ; which we decently buried in a wood-ground, and in spight of our aversi-

on to popery, could not forbear praying (though it was a thing we were not used to) for the safety of his soul; such an ascendant had the thoughts of another world over us, when we gave ourselves leave to think.

The captain buried, the next thing we had to do, was to chuse another in his place, to whose command we might be all subject; and though the preceding captain nominated me, yet his advice was not so binding, but they were left at their own liberty. However, their dead captain's advice, and my activity in the late encounter, flung the choice unanimously upon me, all that I could say against it, not being able to make them alter their minds.

Being thus confirmed as captain of the gang, our next business was to examine into our booty, and then divide it; which being done, we found it rise according to our expectation; but the great thing was, how we shold secure both that and ourselves; for there was no doubt but the robbery we had last committed, being upon a person of such quality, would make a great noise, and cause a great search.

In order therefore to secure ourselves. I advised the going to Edinburgh, it being easier to hide ourselves in the crowd of that city, than it was in the country, where we might be taken upon suspicion, and without giving a good account of ourselves (which we were hardly able to do) committed to prison, from whence it would be very hard to get clear. My advice was approved by all, and as soon put in execution: and so dividing ourselves, having appointed a certain place to meet at Edinburgh, we parted, and each made the best of his way; we thinking it better for each man to go single. And so throwing away my visor-mask, and putting on the best appearance I could of an honest man, I rid soberly along the road. And being overtaken by a sober gentleman, I thought it very proper to keep company with him. He asked me from whence I came? I told him from Inverness, for there I thought I could give some good account of myself. He asked me if I had heard of the great robbery that was committed the day before by six highwaymen? I answered, No, not I; pray, Sir, said I, how was it? he thereupon told me all the circumstances, with a great many additions, for a tale loses nothing by carrying: telling me, that though

the lord viscount fought while he was able to stand, yet being overpowered by their number, for they were all upon him, said he, he was forced at last to yield, having killed one downright, and mortally wounded another. But at last, says he, away rid the rogues, and carried off a thousand pounds away with them. Although I knew what the man said to be a lie, yet I did not think it would be prudent in me to contradict him. But I asked him which way they went, and whether he did not think they would be taken? No, hang them, says he, they are gone up into the Highlands, and there they will be secure enough. I asked him how he knew they were gone thither? He told me it was generally reported so. I was glad to hear they were of that opinion, and thought we might be safer in Edinburgh, where the next night we all safely arrived, and congratulated each other upon our good success.

For two or three days we walked about the city, and put ourselves into a splendid garb, as if we had been gentlemen of quality; but the next day after we came to Edinburgh, a proclamation came out for the apprehending of five highwaymen, who had robbed the viscount of Sythe, and killed one of his gentlemen; promising a reward of 50 l. Sterling for taking them, describing us as well as they could by our clothes, (for our faces they could not see) and giving an account that one of them had received a large wound in the left shoulder: this proclamation was a fatal thing to us all: for putting ourselves (as was said before) into a new garb; when the taylor brought home the clothes for Duncan Hector, as he was putting them on, he espied a wound, with a plaster over it in the left shoulder; and the clothes being somewhat strait upon that place, he complained of it to the taylor, telling him he had been engaged in a duel with a friend of his, against a couple that had challenged them, and thereby received a wound there, which was yet a little tender: the taylor told him he must take the garment home a little to make it easy, and would come with it again in half an hour's time. But instead of that, this dog in a doublet, goes to the provost, and procures a warrant to apprehend him, as being one of the robbers of the lord Kil-th's: for that he had a wound upon his left shoulder; and comes in

with the officers of justice, while we were all in the room with him, who seized not only him, but us all, and had us before the provost, who finding we were able to bring none that knew us to appear for us, committed us all to the tolbooth prisoners, till we could give a better account of ourselves; being attended thither by the mob of the whole city: but that which was worse than all this, was, that the constable at the instigation of that treacherous thief of a taylor, caused all our chambers to be locked up, and took the keys, to carry to the magistrates; after he had taken a particular care to secure us in the tolbooth; by which means all our money was seized, and thereby a further discovery made of our guilt.

Being come to the tolbooth, we were all put into distinct apartments; so that we were denied the consolation of having a companion in our misery, and condoling each other.

The people of the inn, having during the time that we were there, observed that the rest of my companions paid some sort of deference to me, as I were the chief of them, came the next day to give me a visit; and at the same time gave me counsel to provide for another world, assuring me that I had not long to live in this, the magistrates with some of the lord Kil-th's men having been in our several chambers, and had there found the money which my lord was robbed of, and the very bags which were marked by his servants, when the money was put up, and which they were ready to depose upon oath; and that they had carried them all away with them; telling me they would readily do it:

I told them, I was obliged to them for their civility, and that though I was at present under a cloud, I might hereafter (as near as they thought I was to my end) find an opportunity to requite their kindness. I told them likewise, that I thought their proceedings very extrajudicial, to send men to prison only for a supposed breach of the law, and then rifle their portmanteaus whilst they were confined. But I did not doubt after all this, to vindicate my innocence, and obtain a fair trial.

They very civilly wished, that if I were innocent, I might have a happy delivery; and so having treated me with a bottle of wine, they left me.

I was too well assured by what they had told me, that now the time of reckoning for all my villanies drew near; and by reflecting upon what was past, I began to think upon what a dismal prospect was before me: I now began to wish I had kept sheep at Ardnaglas till this time; for although poor, I might have yet been innocent, nor could the law have taken hold of me. I now too late considered, how wilfully I had rushed upon my own destruction; how Providence had several times relieved me from the wide gaping jaws of ruin and destruction, and yet that I would take no warning: Then it was my conscience loudly whispered to me that though I saw my fellow villains hanged at Aberdeen, which was intended as a warning to me, yet I refused to take it. But most of all it came into my mind how barbarously I had treated my poor wife, not only in that villainous intrigue I managed with a virtuous lady, when I had then a wife so lovely, and so virtuous also, of my own to lie by; and being in a place where I might long have lived at ease, in credit and reputation; I would needs leave her, and seek new adventures, and that merely to become yet a greater and more notorious villain. How happy was I (would I often cry out to myself) when I at Inverness lay circled in the chaste arms of my beloved wife, my dearest Jenny Paterson, whom now I never shall behold again. These thoughts would sometimes draw tears from my eyes in spite of all my resolutions to the contrary. For well I knew, if my lord's servants knew the bags, and knew their own hand writings upon them, it was impossible we should be saved— Whilst I was thus bemoaning my hard fate, my keeper and another person unlocks the door, and comes into my chamber; whereupon the stranger coming up to me, Sir, says he, the lords of the session will sit to-morrow, and then your trial will come on, of which I am by them ordered to give you notice, that you may prepare yourself for it. I thanked him kindly for his civility, and told him I was ready then; for innocence wanted but little time for preparation. And I afterwards understood by my keeper that my confident talking of my innocence, made them (for all the proof they had, it was my lord of Kil-th's money) suspicious they should find it difficult to prove it on me.

See here the fate that robbers dyes attend,
 They into mischief rush, but never mind the end,
 For tho' on the road so valiant they appear,
 There's none that lives in so much slavish fear ;
 And when they come to the inside of a gaol,
 The thought of justice does their courage quell,
 Then they begin their former ways to sue,
 And fear that punishment that's to them due ;
 When on the gallows tree being suspended,
 Their wretched lives with shame are quickly ended.

C H A P. III.

He gives an account of his and his companions trials. The defence he made for himself, and the evidence that appeared against him; they are all condemned to be hanged. His agonies under the expectation of death. He is reprieved at the place of execution, and his companions hanged. His wicked life in prison afterwards.

THE news of my trial's coming on the next day, was a little surprising to me, though no more than what I expected; and though I carried it off with a shew of courage and resolution before my keeper, my mind was in an extreme confusion when I was alone: I would have given any thing to have had a little company to have diverted me: but was forced to be alone whether I would or no; sometimes I prayed for deliverance, and upon that score was extravagant in any promises of reformation upon that condition; though at the same time, to speak the truth, it was what I could not hope for. How the minds of my brethren in iniquity were exercised, I cannot tell, but for my own part, I had a court of judicature erected in my own breast, where being summoned before the tribunal of impartial justice, I was there cast and condemned; and this I looked upon but as a fore-runner of what was to ensue the next day.

The day of trial being come, myself and my companions were brought before the court, but were commanded to withdraw, all but Duncan Hector, (whose wound in the shoulder

was the occasion of all our being taken) and then we which were put back, were all put apart from each other, that we might not confer together. Duncan Hector being charged with that robbery, and confronted by the gentleman that gave him that wound, made but a very weak defence, and so was quickly cast. Alexander Crocket was called next, and against him was produced a bag, in which was his share of the money, written upon by one of my lord Kil—th's gentlemen, who testified it was his own hand-writing, and that it contained an hundred and fifty pounds sterling : and Crocket having little to say, was likewise cast. The next was James Moncrief, against whom they had but little evidence; but telling him he should fare the better if he was ingenuous, he confess himself guilty. The next was David Hume, who had also another of the bags, and the gentleman's watch that was killed ; which was so plain an evidence, that he was soon found guilty. My turn came last ; and the indictment being read, the evidence being called, who only affirmed, that I was in company with the rest, and in his chamber when he was taken ; that they afterwards searched my chamber, and found therein, in silver, 67 l. 14 s. 6 d. and in gold, to the value of 37 l. and 18 s. which they presumed was part of the money which my lord viscount Kil—th was robbed of : but I knowing there was no gold among that money, asked the viscount's witnesses whether he had any gold among his money ! To which they answered, as I knew they must, No. Then, gentlemen, said I, seeing you found in my chamber both gold and silver, and the witnesses deposed that there was no gold among their money, how can my money be said to be my lord viscount's, which, it seems by their evidence, was all silver ? Encouraged therefore by this advantage, I pleaded thus.

My Lords, the Judges,

" I am here indicted for a robbery of which I know nothing : I happened upon the road to come into the company of four gentlemen, with whom discoursing, as I came along, and understanding they were bound for Edinburgh, whither I also was going, I travelled along with them, and took up

my lodging at the same inn where they did : and understanding that one of them had a new suit come home that morning, I came into his chamber to take part of the beverage he was going to pay for it. And at the same time the officers of justice (for so I presume they were, though they did not deal very justly with me) took me along with them, for no other crime, but happening to be then in their chamber : my key of my door was presently wrested out of my pockets, and my portmanteau was searched, wherein was, 105l. 4s. 6d. and this they will needs have to be my lord viscount's money, and accordingly was carried away, though they have owned my lord's money had no gold among it : now if my lord's money had no gold among it, I demand that money back again, for that's mine without dispute."

Whereupon the judges ordered me my gold again; and I was then in good hope I should have come off clear : and therefore I went on with my defence thus :

" My lords, I beseech you consider that after they had ransacked my chamber, and portmanteau at their pleasure, they could find neither papers, bags, nor any thing else, which they could affirm to be my lord's ; and therefore why I should be accounted one of his robbers, I know not : I humbly therefore desire I may be discharged, and the residue of my money restored me."

Every body, as well as myself, I believe, thought I should be acquitted, but to my utter confusion, my lord Kil-th himself desired he might be admitted as an evidence ; and being sworn, began as followeth :

My Lords,

" Upon that day I was coming up to Edinburgh, when my coach was robbed, I very well remember the prisoner's voice, though I could not see his face then, because he wore a mask. My lords, I must say this for him, that he was the most courteous and complaisant of any of them ; and to do him justice, treated us very civilly ; for coming up to me, My lord, said he, I must desire your lordship and these fair ladies (pointing to my wife and my daughter) to come out of the coach, whilst we search for your money ; for it is only for that, said he, we came : and thereupon very gentle-

ly took me by the hand, to help me out of the coach, and at that time, I observed upon one of his fingers a gold ring, with a coat of arms cut in a cornelian stone, which I took special notice of; and I desire he may be searched now, whether he has not such a ring about him."

Upon this the keeper presently came and took me by the hand, and found the ring upon my finger. This made all the court give a shout, but so confounded me, that I knew not what to say. Upon this my lord went on thus:

" My lords, I am very glad I have given so much satisfaction to your lordships: I besides took particular notice, that the horse he rid on, was a stout gelding of a dapple gray, which horse, my lords, he brought into the inn, as the ostler and the innkeeper himself can testify, and still remains there; and indeed is a horse fit for such a purpose. But after all, my lords, I must do the prisoner this justice, to let your lordships know, that if it had not been for the prisoner, I believe we should have all been murdered: for, my lords, when they first set upon us, they beset us on all sides, and one who it seems was their captain, coming up to me, and bidding me deliver, I immediately discharged my blunderbuss, by which means he was killed; and after they had got the better of my servants, and had took away my money, they would have took away my rings and jewels from my wife and daughter, and also taken what I had in my own pockets: but the prisoner at the bar, who seemed to have some kind of authority over them, with-held them from it, telling them they had what they came for; and therefore they ought to be civil, and told them, as one that seemed to have some authority, he would not suffer any injury to be offered us. But when the man whom I had shot with my blunderbuss died, their rage was grown to such a height, that they would have massacred us all, to revenge his death. And then, indeed, we found the prisoner at the bar to be our protector, for after he had used several arguments to stop them from their wicked purpose, he came to the coach side, and drew his sword, and told them he would defend us to the last drop of his blood; and that none of them should touch a hair of our heads, whilst he had life and breath. By which being deterred from their purpose they rid away: the

prisoner at the bar being so civil as to wish us a good journey to Edinburgh."

My lord Kil-th having made an end of his speech I was immediately brought in guilty; and all those hopes of being cleared, which had so buoyed me up but just before, were vanished into air. For my unfortunate companions and myself, being then all brought to the bar together, we there received the sentence of death, which was to be hanged before the tolbooth in Edinburgh, till we were dead, dead; and were sent back to prison all together. And the Wednesday following was to be the day of our execution.

If I was troubled before I was much more so now, when I saw the period of my days was numbered, and that I had brought myself to this unhappy end through my own folly: now all the crimes I ever had been guilty of, were brought to my remembrance, and stared me in the face, telling me that I so greatly offended heaven, that now the least part of my sufferings would be what I should suffer here; and tho' a few short moments would make a separation between soul and body, yet would a long eternity succeed it: and then should I for ever be receiving the just reward of all my villainies. These thoughts would enter into my mind whether I would or no; and gave me so much trouble, I scarce knew how to bear it.

At length that dismal night came on, which was to be the last I ever should see: a thousand times I wished that night was over, and yet I dreaded the approach of day. What prayers, what vows, what solemn protestations did I make, to become quite another man, could but my life be spared! But all my hopes were dissipated now, nor the least shadow of them left behind. Some empty hopes before I had entertained, as if my lord Kil-th would be my friend, for that small piece of service I had done him, after we had robbed him, in keeping him from the rage of my companions: but when the morning came, and we were all commanded to make ready and prepare for death, my hopes were at an end; especially when I beheld the officers bring up five halters, one for each of us: I then believed my doom to be as certain, as if I had read it in the book of fate. And then I was

taken up with other thoughts than I ever knew or entertained before ; my eyes and heart were then lift up to heaven, and pardon for my sins was all my cry. After some prayers and preaching in the chapel belonging to the prison, we had the ropes put about each one's neck ; and then set out as men accoutré for another world. But two of my companions, Hector and Crockat, were as brisk and jolly as I have known them when they have been robbing, and gotten a good prize. Come, hang it, says Hector, why this clouded brow ? one quarter of an hour will make us all easy. I met with nothing but what I expected, when first I ventured on this way of living. You do not consider, said I, whither we are going, or at least do not know. Yes, but we do, said Crockat, we are going to be hanged ; and that will soon be over. Ah, but what follows after ? said Maccrief, who was much more concerned than any of us, — After ! said Hector, what should follow after ? When we are dead, we must be buried, man ; be buried in forgetfulness ; that is all that I know follows. By this time we had the fatal tree in view, which put a farther damp upon my spirits, thinking that now the time drew very near, in which I must launch out into eternity.

Hector, who had the wound upon his shoulder, the fatal cause of all our being taken, was first of all tied up to the fatal tree, and after a short speech made to the people, in which he did confess he suffered justly, was just a-going to be turned from the ladder, when on a sudden the trumpets fell a sounding, and a horse or two galloping after, as if his rider came on some important errand, and coming nearer to us, he cried out, A reprieve ! At which the people gave a mighty shout. This made the executioner to stop his hand, and not turn Hector off as he was just a-going ; the messenger on horseback giving the paper into the sheriff's hands, casting his eyes upon me, Sir, says he, you are reprieved if your name be Donald Macduff ? (for by that name I wen'). Yes, sir, said I, transported with a joy too mighty to express, 'tis that is my name. But is there no reprieve but for him only ? cried Hector on the ladder. No, none, the sheriff answered, but for him. Then turn me off, says he to the executioner, would I had been hanged ere I had heard

this news ; and thereupon the executioner dispatched him presently.

Upon the sheriff's saying I had a reprieve, the officer came to me, and set my arms at liberty, which were before pinioned just like a fowl's ready for roasting ; and the sheriff came and gave me joy of my reprieve ; and then bid the officer convey me back to prison. And thus was I delivered from the gallows, I almost knew not how ; but all the other four were executed ; two dying very soberly, and two like Atheists.

That afternoon a gentleman of the lord Kil—th's came to me to the prison, to tell me that his lordship, in regard of the civility I had shewn him at the time he was robbed, had prevailed with the duke of Hamilton, then lord high commissioner, to grant me a pardon, upon condition of going into the army to serve the king. I told him I was infinitely obliged to his lordship for his generous intercession ; and that since I had received my life from his goodness, I would dedicate it to his service, and employ it as he pleased to order me. The gentleman was very well pleased with the expressions of my gratitude to his master, and told me he would not be wanting to serve me in any thing that lay within the compass of his power ; telling me that as my life had been miraculously renewed and lengthened out, he hoped I would so spend the last part of it, as might atone for the errors of the first ; and so he took his leave of me.

The goaler's wife to whom I had been obliged for her kind offices towards me, I made my heir when I thought I should die ; leaving her my rings ; that fatal one, which was the chief cause of my condemnation, and which I had received from my lady Murray, that night in which by a wilful mistake I lay with her ; and another which I had from my wife ; and a third from Douglas Creighton ; with thirty pieces of gold, and a watch ; all which she generously brought me again. I told her that as to the rings, which were the gifts of particular persons, for whom I had a value, I would accept of them ; but it should be upon this condition, that she would accept of ten pieces of gold to buy her one, which she might keep for my sake : It was with some difficulty that I forced her to accept them : but had I known

how long I should have lain in goal there, I should not have been so prodigal. For I thought I should for a week or a fortnight's time have been put into the king's service; but on the contrary, I was forced to lie in goal about half a year before I was released, though I had my pardon granted.

In which long vacation as I may call it, I was not altogether idle: for when the fear of death was over, the thoughts of heaven and another world, was quite and clean forgotten; and how I might procure a subsistence in this, and gratify my sensual inclinations, was the sum of all my thoughts; and therefore, because I loved to be carrying on the work of generation, especially when the saving of a life, as well as the getting of a child, was the effect; I was so kind as to get several young women, who were committed to prison for thieving, with child; who had certainly been hanged, if they had not had a great belly. Nor yet was I so prodigal to do this piece of drudgery for nothing; still making them pay for what I did, according to their ability. By which means I saved the spending of my gold: for as I was always expected to be called for, so I thought that when I was in the army, and under a strict discipline, my gold might do me some service, and help me to what I must otherwise have been without.

I have said before, that my landlady, the gaoler's wife, was always my friend, and should have been my heir; she would oftentimes come to see me, and bring me something that was good: but what motive she had for it, beside that of compassion to an unfortunate man, I knew not: she was a very compleat woman, something turned of forty, but never had a child. Indeed the gaoler appeared to me but an infirm man, which might probably be the reason of it; which made me often think that if she would but have been as willing as I, I would have supplied that want: but because I knew not but that such a proposal might provoke her, and set her against me, I durst never make it. It so happened that an English lass very beautiful was committed to prison for adulterating the coin, which being treason, and so death by the law. She willing to get as much time as she could, and so was treating with me to get her with child: and indeed the comeliness of her person, the gentleeness of her

garb, and the gaiety of her natural temper, were sufficient motives to undertake the business, without any further consideration ; but knowing my own as well as her necessities, I was willing to do half for money, and the other half for love ; as soon as we were agreed upon the premises, I took her into my chamber to perform according to articles ; but just at that unhappy juncture, my landlady came into my chamber, with a paper to cast up some accounts, having (like a blockhead as I was) forgot to make fast the door on the inside ; and bolting in on a sudden, we being then in the critical moment of enjoyment, it was impossible for us to disengage ourselves so suddenly, but that my landlady took notice of it, and fell a chiding of us both ; and we looked as simple as if we could not help it ; however, to make the jest go as well as it could, landlady, said I, they say there is a proverb in England. *There is no hurt done where a good child is got* ; upon which the English woman went away ; and my landlady took me to task for my lasciviousness. Upon which I told her the whole truth. Why, said she, are you sure you can get her with child then, that you make such a bargain ? I never failed yet, said I, and I have done it for severals : at which she fetched a great sigh, saying, I wish my husband were as vigorous as you are, then. Why really, landlady, said I, I have often thought, but never durst presume to push the matter so far home to you, that if you would but give consent, I would undertake to get a child for you : for you look like a woman likely enough : and I would be as true and silent in the case, as you yourself should. At which she fetched another sigh, saying, I should indeed be glad to have a child, or know at least whether it is my fault or not. It is true, said I, and this would be a means to know effectually. If I should do it, replied she again, it is not out of any lustful or lascivious desire, only to make a trial whether it is my husband's fault or mine, that I can have no children. Well, landlady, said I, I will serve you when you please, with all the privacy imaginable. Captain, said she, for so she used to call me, my husband within two or three days goes to Musselborough and from thence to Haddington, about business, which will keep him out near a week ; and when he

is gone out of town, I will order matters so; you shall have the convenience of a night's lodging with me; and then I will give you leave to try your skill: which I faithfully promised her; and so having cast up her accounts for her, (which was her business with me then) we parted, being very glad it was no worse: for I was afraid she would have confined either the English gentlewoman, or myself, and so have spoiled our sport.

*Thus sin does unto shame and ruin tend,
While justice overtakes them in their end:
Our Rogue, altho' his hopes were flown so high,
Soon flog'd again when once condemn'd to die,
The thoughts of death his courage quickly qualld,
And he his former wicked life bewail'd:
But when reprov'd, and his fears over were,
He for his former vows no more does care;
Heaven and repentance are forgotten then,
And he soon falls to's former life again.*

C H A P. IV.

He relates his intrigue with the goal keeper's wife, and how he was afterwards taken out of goal into the king's service. He shewes the ignorance of his captain, his way of exercising his company in the use of the long goon: he steals the captain's turkey, discovers himself for a reward; and was forced to run the gauntlet; and of other villainies that he committed during his being a soldier.

SOON after my landlady was gone, I went to my pretty Englishwoman who was extremely shamed for what had happened; not so much for what we had acted, as for being taken in the act; and also for what she feared might be the effects of it: that is to say, for fear of being made a close prisoner; for goalers generally govern by a despotic power, and can do what they will with those under their custody, especially if criminals. But I presently satisfied her that all was well, and that she would hear no more of it; and the more effectually to convince her, I had her again

into my apartment ; and now taking care not to be disturbed, we renewed our attacks with so much vigour, that there wanted nothing but time to bring the matter to maturity.

What had passed between me and my landlady, did so much run in her mind, that she pushed forward her husband's going to Musselburgh as much as she could, and when all matters betwixt them were adjusted, and the day being fixed, she was so kind (and careful too) to let me know that in two days her husband was to take his journey ; I understood her meaning presently, which was as much as if she had said expressly, take care to be provided.

At length the so much wished for morning came, on which her husband was to take his journey : and she (kind heart !) to strengthen him the more, that he might the better perform it, got ready a whole quart of chocolate for him ; which being somewhat more than he could drink, she sent the rest to me ; as knowing I too had a journey to perform at night ; and that a strengthening draught might help me to go through it the better.

My landlord being gone, and Mrs Goaler now superintendent of the prison, I was a kind of viceroy under her, and had the goal committed to my care ; which gave me a fair opportunity to do what I ard my kind mistress both desired. And therefore having locked up all the rest, and seen that all the prisoners were in their own apartments. I took the keys, and brought them to my mistress, who had provided a good fowl, and a corroborating draught of sprightly wine to entertain me with : and for an hour or two we were very merry, there being none but we two and the maid, who was her mistress's sole confident in this affair (and had been mine too ere she was her mistress's but that my landlady knew nothing of.) Now the preliminaries being over, the lass conducts her mistress to her lodging and puts her into bed ; and then (as tho' it had been my real bride, my prilline bride, my pretty shepherdess) brought me to the bed where her fair mistress lay, in all the charming dress she could put on, expecting me as Venus did Adonis. Nor was it long that thus I made her wait ; but quickly satisfied her expectations and the engagement was performed on both sides with such a vigorous and active heat as shewed both parties were

alike prepared with love's artillery to maintain the combat. And though sometimes we were both out of breath, yet we with equal force renewed the fight, until a truce was for some time concluded. In the interval of which she thus accosted me : *Ab. captain, you exceed the rest of mortals in those encounters ; or else I have only had the shadow of what we call enjoyment :—*

*For in this night my pleasure has been more
Than I in all my life e'er knew before.*

I was very well pleased I had given my fair gaoleress so much satisfaction ; and to tell the truth, she had not been wanting in her efforts to me ; so having satisfied each other, we both agreed with one consent to take a nap until the morning light told us it was time to part, which we did with the tenderest embraces that lovers could bestow upon each other. But this alone shews how well she was pleased, that she desired me ere I went away, if I liked my entertainment, to take up my lodging there again the following night ; to which I returned, that I would very willingly accept her kindness not only the following night, bat till her husband did again return : at which she seemed extremely pleased, and told me that I should be very welcome. So that I lay with her for three successive nights, at the end of which she gave me three guineas ; which I thought was much better pay than that which I should have in the king's service.

And now methought my prison was a palace ; for here I enjoyed all the voluptuous and lascivious pleasures that I could wish or desire, and wanted neither ease nor money, nor what good thing my landlady could help me to ; so that tho' once I longed to go into the wars, the very thoughts of it now was my aversion. But when I least expected it, in comes a thick numskull captain, with a warrant from the high commissioner, to take me into the king's service ; at which I seemed extremely joyful, and ready to go with him ; and that if he would let me know where I must come, I would but just get my things and wait upon him in an hour ; but he was loth to let me stay so long, unless my landlord would engage for my forthcoming ; which at my landlady's persua-

sion he complied with : and when she came into my chamber, bringing me some linen, and what other things I wanted ; and told me kindly, how sensible a trouble my going was to her. However, said she, I shall for ever think upon you, for I can now assure you I am certainly with child. - And giving me a guinea more to drink her health : I gave her a salute, and so we parted there. But when I was going out of doors, her husband being with me, Come, love, said she, let us give the banny lad a cogue of brandy, ere he goes, and so farewell ; which he very readily complying with : Here, captain, said he, here's a small token for you to drink my health when you are gone from hence : and having drank his brandy, and given him thanks for his kind token, I kiss'd my landlady, and so we parted.

And now the scene is altered, and from a highwayman, I am turned soldier. My captain's name was Douglas, a noble name as any in Scotland ; but he had nothing of that noble family but the name only, for the sake of which he had a commission ; but could no more tell how to exercise his men, than the merest rustic in the kingdom. I confess I had not great skill in military discipline, and was more for the practice than for the speculative part of war ; yet while I was a prisoner, and knew I was condemned to serve the king. I got a soldier, who was my fellow prisoner there, to instruct me in the best way of handling my arms, which by that means I was pretty perfect in.

As soon as I paid my respects to my captain, and told him I was ready to receive his commands, he gave me the king's clothing, and a sword and musket, had then put me into the middle of a file, and bid me observe my right hand men, and obey the word of command. So away we marched to our quarters, which was then at Leith ; and I had a companion put to me that pleased me very well, that was witty and ingenious, and able to assist me in carrying on any intrigue.

The next morning we were drawn out upon the links of Leith, where the captain was minded to let us know his military skill, by exercising us himself : which, because it was in a manner peculiar to himself, and may perhaps be a novelty to the reader, I have here set down *verbatim*, in the same Scottish dialect wherein he spoke it.

the Scots Rogue.

The Exercise of the Scots Lang Goon.

Tak care on your sell, sir, now.
Hod him up, sir.
Hod him down the speun seede.
Hod him up now.
Opin your kittle, sir.
Clean your kittle with the baw of your speun thumb.
Haundle your deustie box.
Caulf the black saut into your kittle, sir.
Blaw off your loose deustie, (an muckle blawste, mon.)
Hod your lang goon down to your cogue seede.
Haundle your deustie box, sir.
Tak his bonnet in your teeth.
Pov her hinder end awav, mon.
Caulf your black saut into her wemb, sir.
Caulf a cogle intul her wemb.
Tak the lunt from your bonnit.
Stop it in her moo.
Grip your lang wond
Lug him owte.
Hod him up, sir.
Short'd't to a waw bit anent your right pop.
Stuck it in her moo.
Wod it down the deel's naume, mon.
Lug owte your lang wond, sir.
Short'd't in your speun hand, anent your right pop.
Your lang wond intul its hooft noow.
Hod up your lang goon, sir.
Band your goose erag, and had him owte.
Sat him to your shoulder.
Lat fise in the deel's naume, mon.
Hod up your lang goon, and hod him down to the cogue
seede, a' together.
Your speun hand to your muckle whuniard, mon.
Lug out your muckle whuniard.
Stop your muckle whuniard intul the moo of your lang goon.
Hod up your lang goon, hod him up at me, sir.
Doown wi' your lang goon.

To the speun hand, doown wi' your lang goon.

Stell to the speun hand, doown wi' him ageen, sir.

To the speun hand yit, mon, doown wi' your lang goon.

Noow at me, doown wi' him ageen.

Noow to the cogue hand, doown wi' your lang goon.

To John-a-Groat's hoose, mon, doown wi' your lang gorn.

Ho John-a-Groat's pease slack, doowa wi' your lang goon.

Noow at me, doown wi' him ageen, sir,

Ha' ye forgot, man, what I tauld ye.

Put your fause where your aurse stands, and be domned to ye.

Neow at me; hod him up, and hod him doown to the cogue seede a' together.

Your speun hand to your muckle whuniard, sir.

Lug out your muckle whuniard.

Your muckle whuniard intil his hoose now.

Tak your lang goon to your speun feut, sir.

Doown wi't to Goo's coad grout, mon.

I at gae your lang goon.

Up a' together.

To the speun hand about, Sir.

Gang your way in the deel's naume to ye.

Now rin a' in snarle again, bonny lads.

This was the method of our captain's exercising his company; but because we had not always John a Great's house, or John a Groat's pease slack to direct us in our facing about, our captain altered that phrase as occasion servyd, and bid us face either to some hedge or tree, or kirk-steeple, as was convenient.

It would be too long to give the reader an account of our several marches and counter marches whilst I was a soldier: I will only acquaint him with a few of my pranks, when I was hard put to it for subsistence: in which case I seldom considered who I took any thing from, provided I could but get it.

One time, when provision was very scarce, and my pocket very low, I went into a public-house, and saw a very fine turkey at the fire, not far from our captain's quarters: I asked the man of the house who that turkey was for; He told me it was for captain Douglas. Away I went to confi-

der how I might come in for a snack of it myself, for I had as great a mind to it as my captain; and going to my comrade, and one or two bonny lads more, I told them there was a noble turkey roasting for the captain; in such a place, and if they would stand by me, I did not doubt but to deprive him of it, and get it to ourselves. They asked me which way? I told them when the turkey was just ready to be carried to the captain's, I would dress myself like the captain's butler, or at least like one belonging to him, and go and demand it in the captain's name, and so carry it to my own quarters: they had a mind to the turkey as well as I, but thought the business too hazardous; and asked wherein they could assist me? I told them only in giving me notice when it was taken up, and then seeing that nobody went after me: their part was so easy that they soon agreed; and indeed the situation of the cook's house where it was roasted, and the captain's house made it very likely; for when I had gone half a dozen doors from the cook's I was to turn on my left hand to go to the captain's, but before I came thither, there was another turning on the right hand: which went to my quarters. So that when my comrade gave me notice, the turkey was taking up, I put a napkin on, went very boldly, and told the cook the captain had sent me for the turkey: I was just a-sending of it, says the cook Well, said I, I will save you that labour, and carry it myself now; and so taking it up in their dish, with a cover over it, away I went, and carried it clear off: and having all things ready, we fell to, and made a hearty meal of it; which was dispatched so quickly, that putting on my soldier's clothes again, I went to see how matters went at the cook's; and there found the house all in an uproar; for the captain had indeed sent for the turkey, and they told him that one of his men had fetched it away already; the captain being hungry and disappointed of his dinner, swore like an emperor; but to no purpose; for the turkey was past his coming at; the cook constantly affirming that the captain sent his man for it, and the captain as firmly denying he ever sent for it: and that I might be unsuspected, I told the captain that I saw a man go with a covered dish that way, but did not know what it was: but some where's bird or other told the captain it

was one of his own soldiers, he was sure : upon which search was made in all our quarters, but nothing could be found of it ; nor could either the dish or cover be found. The captain was in a deadly tweague about it, and so much the more, because he had invited some friends to dinner ; who were equally disappointed with himself. Nor was it the loss of the turkey so much vexed him, as the desire he had to know who it was that durst put such a trick upon him. And therefore causes to be published at the head of the company, that if the person who conveyed away the turkey, would come forth and declare how he did it, he should be freely pardoned, and have a reward of 10 l. Scots given to him ; or if any one of his accomplices wou'd discover him, they should have the same reward. This publication, with the free pardon, and reward annexed to it, prevailed with me to get my pardon, and money to boot at once : and therefore having a good stock of impudence, I went boldly to him myself, and thus accosted him : Noble captain, I do not doubt but your innate worth, and generous nature, will oblige you to make good your promise : for nothing is more unbecoming a man of honour than to falsify his word ; in confidence therefore of your generous goodness, and that you will both pardon the offence, and reward the discovery of him that stole your turkey, I am come to declare the truth of that matter to you. Very well, says the captain, by my faul, He be as good as my word, mon, and therefore declare freely. I was very glad to hear the captain confirm his promise, and thereupon made a frank confession of the whole matter. By my faul, mon, quoth the captain, thou art a false loon ; and I shall ken thee for a black sheep another time : however, you have my pardon, for the stealing of my turkey, and there's ten pounds Scots for your reward and confession. And so making me drink besides, bid me gang to my quarters.

I was very glad of this good success ; for the money, tho' no great sum, was a mighty recruit to an empty pocket, as mine was : but as it fell out, I had better have been without it : for my captain, though he was punctual to his word, was not half so well satisfied as I was : and to speak truth, he had not half so much reason, for I had got a good turkey, and money to boot, and he had lost both : and therefore a-

way goes he to the cook that roasted the turkey, and asked him whose dish it was that the turkey, when it was roasted, was carried away in? The cook said it was his, and the largest he had, with a large cover over it. Sir, says the cook, you must pay me for it, for it was one of your soldiers it seems that carried it away. Very well, said the captain, I see you paid for it.

Away goes the captain and sends for the provost, and orders him to take me into custody, which was presently done, and I hurried away to prison; I could not imagine the cause; for I was pardoned for stealing the turkey, and I knew of no crime else I was guilty of: but in a few days after, I was brought before a court martial; where the captain and my cook appeared against me, for stealing a roasted turkey, with a large dish and cover. I pleaded guilty to the indictment, but alledged that I had my captain's pardon, and therefore ought not to be tried for it. The captain readily acknowledged that for the turkey which I had stole from him, he freely pardoned me, and desired I might be acquitted as to that; but, said he, as to the dish and cover, which was the cook's I had no power to pardon that, for that was another man's property. So for the stealing the dish and cover, I was adjudged to run the gauntlet, and to be kept three months in the marshal's prison. For the imprisonment, I did not value it; but the running of the gauntlet did not at all agree with my constitution; but how unwilling soever I was to undergo it, there was no remedy; and my captain was so malicious, that if the soldiers did not do their duties in exercising the discipline of the lash, he threatened them they would suffer the same castigation. But I being generally beloved by the soldiers, who all hated the ungenerous and sordid disposition of the captain, came off much better than the captain would have had me, or than I expected: though not without some severe lashes from some that were in the interest of the captain. Having suffered my punishment, I was recommitted to prison; where I had not those conveniences I enjoyed at the tolbooth in Edinburgh; the provost marshal being a sour sort of a fellow, and having no handsome wife that I could oblige.

I had not been a month in prison, but the under keeper

was entirely my creature, for whatever I got, he was sure to participate with me. And it so happened, the prison where I was, had a door that opened into the market place, where the country-men brought sacks of oatmeal, which was with us a very choice commodity : and having a grate that looked that way also, I was very much grieved to see so many sacks of oatmeal without, and I ready to starve within ; upon which I put my wits upon the tenter, to see which way I could make any of these sacks of oatmeal mine ; and finding that a door opened inwards when it was unlocked, which I had never yet seen. I soon resolved upon the matter, telling the underkeeper that if he would lend me the key of that door, I would only just open it, and shut it again, but would never go out of it. He was very urgent to know the reason, but I told him it was not convenient he should know any thing more, than that it was for no harm, but only to make an experiment ; adding that it would be for my advantage and yet be no manner of detriment to him ; binding it with the most solemn vows I could make : and with much ado the evening before the market day I borrowed the key of him. Now you must know that on the inside of the prison, there was three steps to go up to that door, which opened inwards ; and that door being never made use of, but even with the ground on the outside, the country men brought their sacks and set them against that door. Now I observing several times, the country men were very early in bringing their sacks, even before it was light ; and after they had brought one sack off the cart, which stood about twenty yards off, they went and fetched another : this I had seen them do oftentimes, and that night I had the key. I got up very early in the morning, and seeing a country man just come with his cart, I saw him bring one sack, and set it against the door, and then a second and a third and fourth : and while he was going to fetch the fifth, I opened the door, and immediately down fell the four sacks into the prison ; and before the man could come back, I had shut the door and locked it again, so that no body could imagine it had ever been opened ; and for the four sacks, I thrust them under the boards where I lay, and covered them with the straw which I had to lie upon. As soon as the man came back with another sack, he thought the

devil had conveyed away the other four which he brought first : he looked on every side, but could not for his life imagine what had become of them. At last he began to set up such a cry, as drew those few people that were then in the market together, and made those that were in their houses to come out, and enquire what was the matter : The man said he had four sacks of oatmeal stole from him ; and then told the people where he had placed him and how suddenly they were gone. And those that were pretty near, having seen no body that possibly could convey them away, began to imagine the man distracted, and that it was only a whimsy of his own brain, without any reality, which made the man almost distracted indeed. For as it grew lighter, the thing seemed more improbable that he should lose four sacks in so short a space; and no body be seen to carry them away : some imagined it to be the soldiers ; but knew not how they could do it and not be seen ; but this being the most probable opinion, how unluckily soever in itself, a complaint was made to the main guard, and the soldiers that kept guard that night being called, they were all there but one, who was thereupon suspected, but he soon cleared himself. Then the quarters of the others that were not upon the guard were searched; but nothing found. At last my captain began to suspect me, and sent to know whether I had not broke prison ; but the messenger was brought in, and saw me ; and then told me what his business was ; which made me remember the old proverb, *He that gets an ill name, is as good as half hanged* : but my being in prison, so baffled their suspicions that I was thought innocent ; and so after all the search they could make, they could hear of no footsteps of the four sacks of oatmeal. After all the noise was over, my keeper who knew nothing of what I had done, asked me very seriously what I was so earnest with him for, to let me have the key of that door ? For said he, I do not see any advantage you have made of it : and thereupon seeing he had trusted me, I thought I might very well trust him, and so shewed him what I had got. The keeper advised me to let my captain know it, who in the straits to which he was now reduced, would be glad to be sharer with me in such a prize, and give me my liberty into the bargain. I was a-

fraid to trust him ; but the keeper assuring me all should be well I left it to him to manage the business for me. The most difficult matter was, not to make the keeper concerned with me, because he lent me the key : but for that I told him he must plead ignorance of the thing, and I would undertake to clear him of any knowledge of the matter ; which way can that be ? quoth he. Why, said I, I will tell him, that you being in my chamber and called hastily out, left your keys behind you, and I took the impression of them in a piece of clay, and so got a key made ; which I afterwards threw away to prevent discovery. This the keeper liked well enough ; and so bid me leave the rest to him.

But I was very importunate with him to know what reason he had to think that the captain had any kindness for me ; or that, if he should know what I had done, he should not cause me to be prosecuted for it, as he did for taking away his turkey, even after he had passed by it ? he told me the captain had asked often after me, and told me he was very sorry for my misfortune, and for what he had done, and said if he was to do it again he would never do it. And said moreover, that though he did not know who stole the four sacks of oatmeal, yet he did not care if he could come in for a snack with them that had it. And I told him, said the keeper I believed you would be easily reconciled for the injury done to you : I wish he would, says he, for I begin to love him, and have a great esteem for him.

What design the keeper had in this matter I knew not ; but if he had his design, so had I mine, and therefore was resolute to let him go on.

The next day my captain comes to visit me in the goal, and salutes me thus Donald how is it ? Thank ye, noble captain, said I ; I am but in a fairy condition to be kept in prison here ; but the deet a bit can I help it and sae I must bear it as well as I can. The deet spirit my wees quo' the the captain but I could een greer to see thee here. I ne'er thought the court martial would have been so severe. I thought they would have only tied thee neck and heels a little, and to pass it over. Well, noble captain said I, if you will give me your pardon, I will tell you what I have done, since I came hither. By my faul wun I, quo' he, and thereupon

gave me a shilling. Here has been a great noise, said I, about four sacks of oatmeal—By my soul, mon, has there, said the captain. The meal in this garrison would be a good booty—By my soul, wou'd it, quo' the captain. I could tell ye, said I, where it is, but I am afraid—Afraid of what? you may be sure I will pardon all and keep your counsel too. Pardon me, captain, but for what I pray? Capt. For all the oatmeal that you stole away from the country-men. Don. No, sir, this will not do, I ken your clever foot right well; experience has made me wise. Capt. What do you mean by that? I understand you not. Don. Then, noble captain, I will explain myself; you say you will pardon me for all the oatmeal that I took away. This is just like your pardoning me for eating up of your turkey, and then prosecuting me for the dish and cover. So now I shall be pardoned for taking away the oatmeal, and then hanged for stealing the sacks—No, by my soul, replied the captain, I never intended that. Your pardon shall be full, both for the sacks and oatmeal too. And pray let all injuries be forgotten, and we will contract a friendship together, and I will get you out of prison very quickly.

Pray, captain, said I, what is the meaning of these profers of friendship now, when you were so much against me before?

For that very reason, replied the captain, because I am satisfied I wrnged you before; and I find not only that you are a good soldier, but an ingenious man, and one whose friendship I am willing to deserve. Well, sir, said I, if that be the reason, I accept your acknowledgment with all my heart. And to shew you how sincere I will be, I will shew you both where the sacks of oatmeal are, and how I got them. And then plucked away the straw, and pulled them out, and shewed him how I opened the door and the sacks fell in, as before was shown. With which easy and safe conveyance the captain was so well pleased, that he could not forbear laying, Well Donald, since you have contrived this way, I would have you stay here a little longer, and you may have half a score sacks at a time; for you know provision is very scarce, and so is money too; and these sacks of meal will yield both ant when you have done, convey them by the keeper's assistance to my house, and then they will go

under the notion of my stores ; and you and I will divide the spoil, giving some to the keeper.

To all this I readily agreed, and desired the captain to send for those the next evening. Upon this the captain gave me a ducat, and so took his leave of me. And I was very glad I had made this agreement with him ; for hereby I did not doubt but I should have an opportunity to be revenged on him for my running the gauntlet, which, for all my words to him, still stuck in my stomach. For though I believed he was sorry for what he had done, yet I could not forgive him.

However, I seemed to forget all, and to have a great respect for my captain, and promised the first opportunity to have the other touch for some more oatmeal ; especially, having my captain's pardon under his hand for the other.

And it was not long before another opportunity offered itself, to bring about my design. For having acquainted my keeper with the matter (for without him nothing could be done) and got the key of him, over night there was an honest country man had placed his sacks against the prison wall before the morning light, and while he was a lighting his tobacco at a neighbouring candle. I suddenly unlocked the door, and down fell seven sacks of meal into my trap ; and thereupon shutting the door again immediately, all was as still as could be ; the countryman having his pipe well lighted, came back again to see if his sacks were safe ; and one of them falling down just across the door, whilst he was standing by, and thought all was well, he turned back to see what was the matter ; and was almost distracted, when he saw but five sacks left out of the twelve he brought there : and making a great outcry he was robbed, raised all the people presently about him. In the mean time the keeper thought it best to have the sacks conveyed out at a back way to the captain's quarters ; and then we both thought ourselves sure enough.

The strangeness of the countryman's relation, that seven sacks should be conveyed away so in an instant, made all the people wonder, and brought to their remembrance the sacks that formerly were lost in such a manner, and could never be heard of since.

This made same people that had more eyes (or could see

farther into things than others) imagine there must be some slight of hand, that should convey them thence so suddenly, and unperceived by any one ; and thereupon advised the honest country man to get the prison searched, to see if they were not there ; for they it seems perceived there was a door, and that the crevices looked very meally : and thereupon demanding of the goaler to look into that room that had a door which opened to the market, the goaler strangely changed his colour presently, and had such an appearance in his face of guilt, as made the people more resolute in their demanding entrance, and him more obstinate in his refusing them ; (although the seven sacks of meal were all conveyed away, and safe enough within the captain's store-house). The people seeing they could have no entrance, went to the governor's and got from him an order to search the prison for seven sacks of meal.

Armed with this order, they came back again, while he (I mean tho goaler) came into my room, mightily concerned about the matter ; I told him, as long as they were all conveyed away, he should have let them come in readily ; he told me he was afraid some of the meal might be perceived either upon the floor, or on my clothes ; but I had taken care of that before and put a heap of dust and dirt upon the steps below that door, as if it had not been this seven years opened ; with which he was extremely pleased, and so went out to wait the motions of the mob, who in a little time came to the goaler with an order from the governor to search the prison ; and being thereupon admitted, came all into my chamber, and searching underneath the boards on which I lay, instead of a bed, they perceived the marks of the old sacks of meal which had lain there so long before ; and then rejoiced as if they had made a great discovery. And asking me how they came to be so white ? I told them I knew nothing of it, unless it was the straw I put there did it, on which I used to lie. All this was not sufficient, but they'd needs search my pockets, to see if I had got no key by which I could get that door open ; and this unthought of business brought all the roguery out ; for here they found (although no key) the pardon which my captain gave me for stealing four sacks of oat-meal, and the sacks beside. This was such a discovery that

they were all for having me before the governor immediately ; but this the goaler would by no means yield to but said he wad keep his prisoner, till he had the governor's order to deliver him. And thereupon they left me behind, and went all with that note to the governor.

In the mean time I knew not what to think of my condition ; this keeping of my pardon in my pocket to be took by them was a false step ; I made account to get money by it ; and now I found it would be well if I could save myself. My goaler too came to consult me upon this occasion, and urged me not to own by any meaos the having of the key from him, for only that could hurt him. I promised I would take special care that he might be secure. But whatsoever I told him, I was resolved my chiefest business shoud be, to bring myself off handsomely. But how to do it, I had no time to think, because by special order I was brought before the governor, who seeing of the pardon that the captain gave me, sent presently for me to know the meaning of it : I told him that his excellency saw well enough what it was.

Come, sirrah, says he, do not prevaricate, and put a trick upon me, but tell me now ingenuously the naked truth, and I will promise you that you shall have your pardon. With that the countryman, who stood just by the governor, said, If it please your excellency, to encourage him the more, I'll give 40 l. Scots, so as I may recover my seven sacks of meal again.

I thought if I slipt this opportunity, I might never have so fair an offer again, and therefore was resolved to take both my country man, and his excellency the governor, at their word, and let the captain and the goaler shift as well as they could, and thereupon I returned this answer.

May it please your excellency, if I do not discover the naked truth, how much soever against myself, I will not ask your pardon ; but if I do, I shall expect it. And you shall have it upon my word, said the governor, and therefore pray proceed.

My lord, said I, I being once put hard to it for victuals, I found means to get a turkey ready roasted, which my captain had provided for himself, and when the captain had long searched in vain, and could not tell who had it, be of-

ferred a reward and pardon to those who would come in and discover it : upon which I came in myself, and owned myself to be the person who stole it, and eat it ; and thereupon I had the reward promised, and a pardon as my captain told me, for the turkey ; but he afterwards prosecuted me for the dish and cover, and I was made to run the gauntlet, and was also committed to prison, from whence I was brought now before your honour.

That I think, said the governor, was not fairly done of him ; but what is this to the four sacks of meal ? Ay, says the country-man. and to the seven sacks of meal I lost to-day ? Have a little patience, said I, and I shall come to them presently.

" May it please your excellency, said I, whilst I was in prison, I daily saw sacks of meal brought and set against a door which was never made use of, and I thought if I could but contrive to open the door, the sacks would fall in of themselves, and the same door being shut presently again, would prevent all discovery. But how to get the door open, I knew not : at last I prevailed with my keeper to lend me the key of that door for one night, and faithfully promised him to continue a true prisoner, and to make no ill use of it. In fine, he lent me the key, and I opened the door before it was light, and down fell the sacks into my chamber or room ; and I immedately shut the door again, without any noise or notice ; and put the sacks of meal under the boards upon which I lay. But now I had got the sacks, I knew not what to do with them, and therefore found myself under the necessity of letting the keeper know what I had done ; and he having some interest with my captain, prevailed with him to be reconciled to me, and urged me to let the captain know of these four sacks of meal : but I was afraid the captain would discover me : to prevent which scruple, the captain gave me his pardon for the stealing of the four sacks of oatmeal, and for the sacks too, which I urged him to do, lest he should come upon me for the sacks, as he did before for the dish and cover of the turkey and so I came by that note your excellency has ; and the three sacks of oat meal were sent to the captain, and the other to the keeper, for the liberty of the key."

A very fine bargain ! said the governor. But pray what is

become of my seven sacks of meal, says the country man ? you must have a little patience, said I : I shall come to them presently : and then in short I proceeded to give an account of the bargain made between the captain and I, and the keeper shewing how the captain encouraged me to steal half a score sacks at a time ; and so how I opened the door this morning, and let seven sack fall in, which the keeper remov'd into his own house, and sent away out at his back-door this morning to the captain's.

Upon this discovery, the captain's house was searched, and the meal and sacks found, which confirmed the truth of all I had said. And the governor ordering the country-men to have his seven sacks of meal again, very honestly gave me what he had promised, viz. 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling or forty pounds Scots.

But although I was pardoned for my share of the villainy, yet I was kept as a prisoner in the provost's house to be an evidence against the captain and my keeper ; who in a few days were brought as delinquents before a court martial, and charged with what I had accused them of : the two country-men, who had lost one four, the other seven sacks of meal, appeared in court against them ; and though they both denied the matter with an unparalleled impudence, the captain telling the court that it was a shame his honour should be brought in question upon the testimony of so great a villain, who had before been condemned to be hanged, but was reprieved, and whom he brought out of a gaol to serve the king ; and who had since that been convicted of thieving before that very court, and was still a prisoner. The judge heard all that the captain alledged against me with a great deal of patience : and then made this reply : that he did verily believe what he had said of me was true enough : and that I was a rogue ; but that still reflected the more upon him, who was so enamoured with me that he must needs go to the prison to me, and there contract a league with me, and set me on to steal, and then agree to be the deceiver.

The captain said it was false, and that they could prove no such thing : that he was above all that, and scorned to have any thing to do with such a one, and therefore caused me to be punished for stealing his turkey, and the dish and cover to it.

The Judge then asked him how he came by the seven sacks of meal ? I could not carry them thither myself, how great a rogue soever I was, for I was then a prisoner.

'The captain said they were sent in to him, and he thought they had come from his meal man, who used to serve him.'

'The judge then asked him, why he gave me a pardon for stealing four sacks of meal, and the sacks also ?'

He denied he did any such thing, or write any such note. But the keeper, hoping to get off the better, witness'd (as it was true enough) that he saw the captain write that note ; and then he also desired him to let him have the key of that door that opens into the market-place, whenever I desired it. And that when I had got a prize, the goods were to be sent to his quarters, and there they should be safe.

This evidence of the gaoler did so fully discover the captain's guilt, for all his haughty carriage, that they proceeded against him as principal criminal, and passed sentence of death upon him. And to satisfy the country-men, who declared if he was not made an example, they wad bring no more goods to the market, he was fairly hanged.

The gaoler being brought in guilty by his own confession, was fined 50*l.* Sterling, and to lose his place, and suffer a year's imprisonment.

These trials being over, the court took into consideration what they should do with me ; and I was much afraid after all, I should come in for a snack of the punishment too. But the governor told them, that as he saw there would be no convicting of the captain, nor come to find out the depth of the matter without me, that he had promised me a pardon, and he would be as good as his word. But for all that that they might be seen to do something against me, they made an order that I should be cashiered out of the army, never to serve more in his majesty's army, in any capacity whatsoever. Which order, however, they meant as a punishment to me, I thought was the greatest kindness they could do me ; especially, considering I had all my arrears paid me ; which amounted to near five pounds Sterling, which, with the money I had received of the country-man, came to above eight pounds.

Being thus cashiered and set free from the army, I was

now once more become my own man and was at my own disposal. Which put me upon considering what course of life I should now betake myself to.

To go to Inverness my reason told me would be best, because there I might expect entertainment on several accounts : my wife would be overjoyed to see me, having been above two years absent ; and the lady Murray would have a kindness for me on the account of what I had done for her : and to live with my wife after I had escaped so many hazards, would be the honestest course I could steer : and I verily believe I might have lived happily with her, if I had gone to Inverness : but I had a hankering mind to be a little better acquainted with Edinburgh; for it was the finest city I had ever seen. And therefore thither I directed my course.

In my way to Edinburgh, I lay at a town called Renfrew, not far from Glasgow, and resolved to keep what money I had got, to new rig myself at Edinburgh. I spent but little money, and so calling for my supper went to bed, and resolved to rise betimes in the morning. I cleared my reckoning over night. It so fell out that a gentleman who came to that inn, desired a lodging there, but it seems all the rooms were taken up ; the gentleman asked if there were any that lay alone, for he was willing to lie with any body, rather than not go to bed ? They told him there was a soldier that lay alone, if he would be willing to lie with him. He told them with all his heart ; so up they came to me, and asked me if I would admit of a gentleman for my bed-fellow, because the inn was full ? I told them I was very willing if the gentleman pleased to accept of me. In fine, he came into my chamber and calling for a choping of ale to make me drink, he came to bed to me ; and he having rid hard, and being very weary, fell asleep in a short time ; but the devil put such a conceit into my head, that I could not sleep at all afterwards. But as soon as ever it was break of day, I got up and put on the gentleman's clothes, and, as good fortune would have it, they were very fit for me ; and so having taken all that was good for any thing out of my breeches and coat-pockets, I left mine for the gentleman, in the room of his own. And so going down stairs in the slippers that the gentleman came up in, I went down and asked for my boots ;

and the ostler taking me for the gentleman, brought his boots to me, and was very obliging, asking how I liked my lodging? I told him I made a shift with it for once; and so bidding him get my horse ready, he did so; and then paying what he demanded, and giving the ostler six-pence, he was very well pleased with his money, and I with the exchange I had made with the gentleman. And so rid away for Edinburgh.

But when I came to examine my pockets, I found about 60/- Scots in silver, and thirty-three guineas, besides a good watch, a seal, and several papers, which I could have wished he had again, for they were of no use to me.

And here I cannot forbear diverting the reader with what past after I was gone, at the inn, as I heard from one at Edinburgh, four or five days after, who was actually there, and little thought I had been the party concerned.

It seems the gentleman, who had rid hard that day, and went very late to bed, slept so soundly, that he never waked till about nine o'clock in the morning, and then missing his bed-fellow, and going to get up, he found none but the soldier's clothes in the chamber, which made him call for the chamberlain; but he made no haste it seems to come to him, believing it to be only the soldier that made that noise; which caused the gentleman to knock louder, and make a great noise, which so disturbed the chamberlain, that he cried out, "The deel fill your wemb full of sma' stanes, for a lazy loon: can ye no come down your fell, and be dommed to ye. Deel split my wemb if I do not thrash your jacket, an I come tull ye." This kind of language made the gentleman almost distracted; and therefore taking one of the blankets, and wrapping about him, he came down stairs, and asked him, "what he had done with his clother, that he had nothing to put on?" upon this the chamberlain runs up stairs, and finding the soldier's clothes lying in a chair, takes them down in his hand, and asked the gentleman, "What deel gar'd him to make such a noise? asking him if he was blind; for here, said he, is your clothes?" "Why you cheating dog, said the gentleman, in a great passion, there are the soldier's clothes that I lay wish'd," "The soldier's clothes I laid the chamberlain, pray what deel are ye but a soldier?

these are the clothes you came hither in last night, and they are like to serve you to-day." With that the gentleman being out of all patience, falls upon him, and cuffs him stoutly; this battle brings the man of the house and all the people into the yard, to enquire into the merits of the cause: and the gentleman telling his story first, alledged "that he came in thither late last night, and the beds being all taken up, he was content to lie with his horse, rather than go farther; and this morning, when he awoke, his clothes were gone, which, with what was in them, was worth above forty pounds Sterling: and now he would pop him off with the soldier's clothes." The chamberlain and the other both swore "he was a lying rogue; for the gentleman that came last night went away this morning and paid honestly for what he had both for himself and his horse." "True I said the gentleman; what is my horse gone too?" "The deel a bit of horse had you, quoth the ostler; but the gentleman rid away upon his own horse this morning, and a bonny lad he was." The gentleman upon this made all the protestations in the world, that it was he that brought in the horse, desiring the people to "judge whether his shirt, and rings upon his fingers, were consistent with such clothes as the soldier left behind him." The inn keeper told him very civilly, "that he did believe he was a gentleman; and was very sorry for his loss; but, said he, both the chamberlain and the ostler might be very easily mistaken in a person that wore the same clothes, and came down asking for his boots, and his horse to be got ready, as it seems the soldier did; who, to be sure was an artist in his trade." All this did not satisfy the gentleman, but he would have the inn keeper make good his loss. "Hold, sir, said he, there is no other witness of your loss but yourself. And the very lying-with-a-soldier that we knew not, nor any in my house, was the greatest folly imaginable; and so was your leaving of your breeches in the chair, which you ought to have put under your pillow. And so you must even thank yourself for your loss, that is all the comfort I can give you." And all the persons in the inn approving of what the inn-keeper said, the gentleman was fain to tarry there, till he had sent for his friends to recruit him. This story made the compa-

by all laugh, at the trick was put upon the gentleman, commanding the wit, tho' not the honesty of the soldier.

I laugh'd among the rest, but for another reason, which was, that I was the principal actor in this comedy, though I did not think it proper to let them know so much.

But to return from this digression. The first thing I did when I came to town, was to sell my horse, which I did for 5*l.* But I had nothing with me, so I bought a mourning cloak, and a black cap, which I chang'd with the gentleman till a more convenient time. And then I resolved to see the city, there being none that in that garb I feared to meet.

After I walked about the city, and took a view of the walls called Holy rood wall, and afterwards went up, and beyond the castle, which is really a very strong place; and over-tops the city abundantly. And having so far satisfied myself, I designed a visit to my landlady at the Tolbooth, but was prevented by what I never thought of, I mean a fit of sickness, which brought me to the doors of death, and whether I shall recover or not, is yet a question among my physicians: if I do, the world shall hear further from me. If I die, let this be my Epitaph.

*Here lies a wretch with darkness now benighted,
Who, while he liv'd, in wickedness delighted:
Whose life in nothing else employed has been,
But traversing the various paths of sin:
He liv'd by others losses, and would still
Be studying new ways of doing ill:
He 'scap'd the gallows narrowly, but death
Attack'd him by surprise, and stopt his breath.*

*Of whom I'll say now in the grave he's hurl'd,
Here lies the plague and nuisance of the world.*

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in your conciences, like the eagles, bathe and molt
upon your plumes come down; and strike with the fit of con-
trition, upon your hard and stony hearts, so you shall
become new men; new to God, new to his vice-
gerent, new to yourselves; which will be the best
news that hath been creded in your freets these many
years. And as ~~you~~ have been principium et caput, so
be but ~~your~~ busius rebels, and habebis laudem ex
illa, Rom. xiii. And as it hath been your fault to
begin this rebellion, so let it be your virtue to make
an end of it; for if you will not make an end of it,
there will be an end of you.